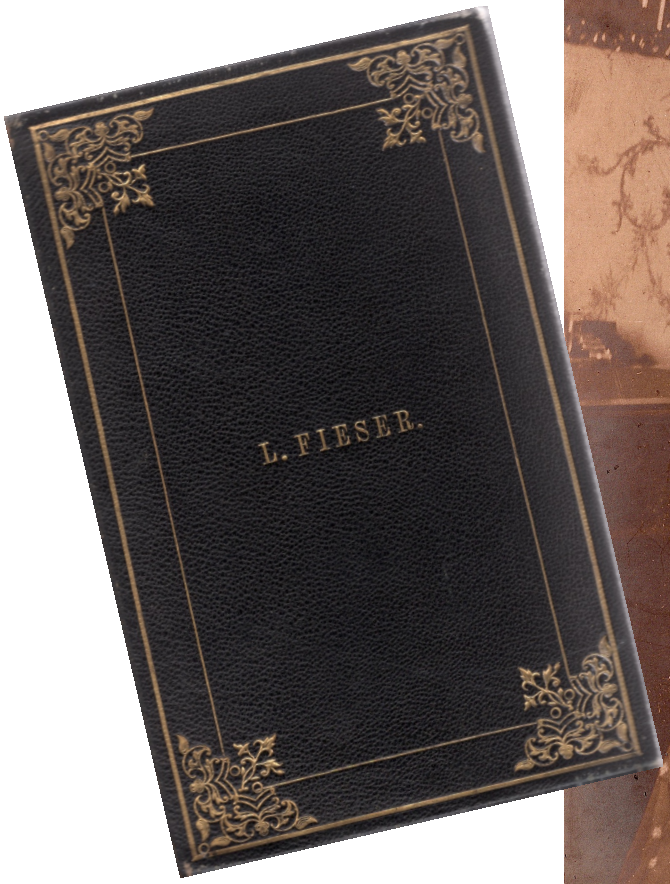
Louise Schede Fieser's Diary

Translated from German into English



Louise Schede Fieser photographed on Christmas Day 1898 with three of her nine grandchildren: from left, Dorothy Fieser, Georgie Krauss, and Martha Fieser.

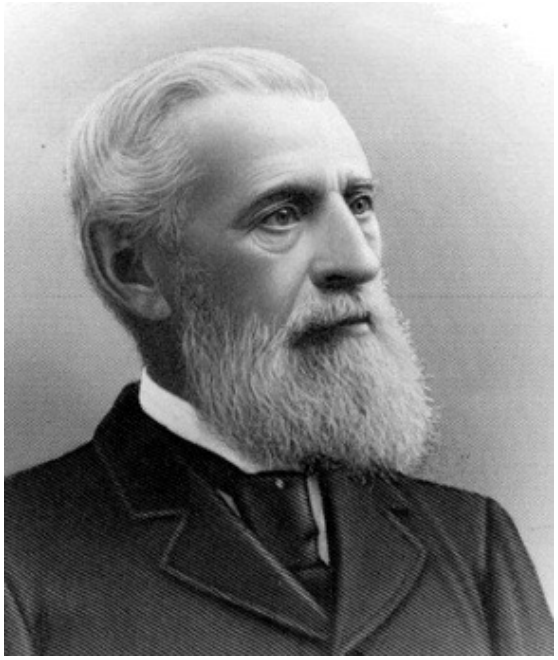
Louise and Friedrich Fieser

Louise Philippine Schede was born in Neuwied, Rheinland-Pfalz, on August 24, 1816. She immigrated to the United States with her father, Heinrich Ludwig Schede, a hat maker, in 1834. Louise's mother was Philippine Wilhilmine Steinman, birth and death dates unknown. It is likely Philippine died before Louise and her father came to the United States, and possibly when Louise was quite young. Although Louise records her father's death on the first page of her journal, she does not write of her mother, nor is her mother mentioned in Ludwig's will, other than as his wife with whom he had two daughters.

Louise had one sibling, a sister six years older, Mathilde Schede Selbach, who married Friedrich Wilhelm Selbach in Germany and had several sons and at least two daughters before immigrating with her children to Columbus, Ohio where Louise was then living, sometime after 1850. Mathilde may have been widowed before she left Germany.

Ludwig and Louise Schede are listed in the 1840 census, living in Dayton, Ohio, where (per his will) Ludwig Schede owned property. He died on February 27, 1842. Three years later, on June 21, 1845, his daughter Louise married Friedrich Fieser in Dayton.

Fieser was also a German immigrant, born in Wolfenbüttel, Braunschweig, in 1815 (per his birth certificate). He came to the United States, probably by himself, in 1836 and sold pianos briefly before working in the newspaper business. There's a great deal of information about him in the diary, mostly from his lengthy obituary and an article he wrote for *Der Westbote (The Western Messenger),* Columbus's German language newspaper.



Friedrich was the editor and a cofounder of *Der Westbote*. The Fiesers lived in Columbus where they were active members of the large German immigrant community. German was the language spoken in their home; Louise never learned English. They had seven children: three were stillborn, two died very young (a son at five months, a daughter at 15 months). In addition to these losses, Louise had a late miscarriage between the births of her fourth and fifth children. Only daughter Berthe Mathilde and son Louis Friedrich survived and grew to adulthood.

The family pronounced Louise's name in the German way: "Louisa." Louis's name was pronounced as the French would say it, "Louie." In their later years, Louise and Friedrich lived with their daughter Berthe Krauss and her family. Their son Louis and his family lived down the street. Louis's daughters Dorothy and Martha loved to play with Berthe's son Georgie. The photograph on the cover suggests that Louise Fieser enjoyed the company of her grandchildren. In the last years of her life, she saw her husband and three of her nine grandchildren die. Her diary documents the comfort she felt from her religious faith when faced with these losses. She died on January 10, 1900.

75 Hamilton Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, where Louise and Friedrich Fieser lived with their daughter Berthe Krauss and her family from about 1885 until their deaths.

The Diary

On the first page of her diary, Louise Fieser recorded the birth and death dates of her father. The second page is written in a different hand, undoubtedly that of Louise's husband Friedrich. It begins with the title *Familien Chronik,* and records Louise and Friedrich's marriage on June 21, 1845, and the births of their first two children. After the first few pages, the events are dated but not entered chronologically. They are sometimes written in Louise's fine hand and sometimes by Friedrich, whose handwriting became a messy scrawl as he grew older. Pasted onto later diary pages are obituaries, letters of condolence, newspaper articles, and childhood writings by Louis Fieser, Sr. There are other mementoes tucked into the empty pages at the back of the diary—a treasure trove for the family historian.

When Louise died in 1900, the diary probably went to her son Louis. After Louis's death in 1917, or the death of his wife in 1929, it was passed on to Louis Fieser, Jr. More than 40 years later, Louis Fieser, Jr.'s wife, Mary Peters Fieser, gave the book to Martha (Marty) Rankin Meade, Louis and Mary's niece and a great-granddaughter of Louise and Friedrich Fieser.

I had the good fortune to learn of the diary, and then to see it, after finding Marty through an internet search. My mother had told me, before her death in 1992, that her cousin Marty had gone to Germany in the 1970s to research our German branch of the family. When I became interested in genealogy myself, I was thrilled to locate Marty and then travel from Oregon to Virginia in June 2017 to visit her and learn about her family research. To see my second great grandmother's diary was the icing on the cake.

The Translation

After Marty acquired the diary, she had portions of it translated. Heide Briggs translated the first six pages in August 1974. Later portions, including the family letters, were translated by employees of Berlitz language school. When I saw the diary and scanned it, fifteen pages in the middle plus the German obituaries remained to be translated. Professor Helmut Plant at the University of Oregon translated three pages and eventually I was able to locate a translator in Berlin, Germany, who could read the old German script, Valeska Nygren. Valeska translated the twelve pages that remained. With the help of *Google Translate* and a chart of old German typeface letters, I translated the obituaries myself.

Among Marty's family records was a translation of Friedrich Fieser's article *From My Memories*, translated in 1974 by Mildred (monogram MSM, surname not recorded), a friend of Fieser's great-granddaughter Louise Shedd Hinman. I used an old-style font and formatted her translation to fit the columns as they appear in the diary. For presentation of the handwritten material, I chose different fonts for Louise's and Friedrich's diary entries so that the reader would be able to know who wrote each passage. Louise's font has the feminine curl.

When the translation and formatting were finished, the Covid-19 global pandemic delayed completion of the project. Because of the requirement that everyone stay at home to slow the spread of the virus, I could not immediately take the manuscript to the printer to be bound, and so I engaged Valeska Nygren to check it for errors. She found a number of "creative translations," as she described them, including several sentences that had been omitted. We spent a few hours talking on the phone while Valeska went over the corrections and provided background information. The translation is considerably improved by her suggestions.

Like me, Valeska descends from a journalist, in her case, her father. I was gratified by her interest in the material and her enthusiastic participation in the project. During this strange time of isolation and increasing awareness of the need for people around the world to work together, it has been a rewarding pleasure to connect with a stranger who lives in the country my ancestors left over 180 years ago, in the city where I lived myself 34 years ago.

I hope that readers will enjoy this representation of a family heirloom, but I doubt anyone will have more fun reading it than I had putting it together.

Christina Buck Armstrong
(Second great granddaughter of Louise and Friedrich Fieser)
March 2020, revised April 2025

18

1782 am 21 Januar ward
H. Ludwig Pfaff mein liebes
Töchterchen geboren.

Gestorben 1842 am 27 Februar
im Alter von 59 Jahr.

Ich habe einen guten Kampf gekämpft
ich habe den Lauf vollendet; ich habe
Glauben gehalten.

Hierbei ist mir beigelegt die Krone
der Gerechtigkeit, welche mir der
Herr an jenem Tage, der gerechte
Richter, geben wird. 2 Timothäus 4 v.
7–8

1782 on December 21st
H. Ludwig Schede my dear
father was born.
He died on February 27,
1842 at the age of 59.
I have fought the good fight, I have
finished the race, I have kept the faith.
Henceforth there is laid up for me the
crown of righteousness, which the
Lord, the righteous judge, will award
to me on that Day, and not only to me
but to all who have loved his appearing.
2 Timothy, 47, 7-8

Louise's diary entries are printed in Snell Roundhand font (above).

Familien Chronik.

Am 21. Juni 1845 wurde
Friedrich Fieser mit Louise
Schede durch Herrn Winters
in Dayton vereinigt.

—

Am 6. October 1846 wurde
Louise von einem todten
Knäbchen entbunden.

—

Am 2. Januar 1848, Morgens
6 Uhr von einem gesunden
Knaben entbunden, der in der
Taufe den Namen Louis
Theodor erhielt. Starb am
25 Juni 1848, im Alter
von 5 Monaten und 3
Tagen.

—

Family History

On June 21, 1845
Friedrich Fieser was married
to Louise Schede by the
Reverend Winters in Dayton.

—

On October 6, 1846
Louise gave birth
to a stillborn son.

—

On January 2, 1848 at
6 o'clock in the morning
she gave birth to a
healthy son. His name
was Louis Theodor.
He died on June 25, 1848,
at the age of 5 months and 3
days.

—

Friedrich Fieser's diary entries are printed in Bodoni 72 Oldstyle Book Italic (above).

Am 13. März 1849, Nachmittags um 2 Uhr wurde Louise von einem todten Mädchen entbunden.

—

Am 14 April 1850, Nachmittags um 1 Uhr wurde uns ein Mädchen geboren, das in der Taufe den Namen Louise, Auguste, Friederike erhielt. Die Taufe fand am 18 October 1850 statt. Starb am 24 Juli 1851, um 10 Uhr Morgens, in einem Alter von 15 Monaten und 10 Tagen.

—

Am 5. Mai 1851 einen Knaben todt (Knäbchen von 4 Monaten.)

—

Am 15 Februar 1853, 15 Minuten nach 3 Uhr Nachmittags, wurde unser

Bertha

geboren. Bei der Taufe, die am 17 Juni stattfand, erhielt sie den Namen Bertha Mathilde.

—

Am 17 October 1854, um 1/2 11 Uhr Vormittags, wurde uns

Louis

geboren. In der Taufe, die am 1. März 1857 stattfand, erhielt er die Namen

Louis Friedrich.

—

Am 21. December 1856 um 9 Uhr Abends, wurde uns ein todtes Knäbchen geboren.

—

On March 13, 1849 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon Louise gave birth to a stillborn daughter.

—

On April 14, 1850 at 1 o'clock in the afternoon our baby girl was born, she was baptized Louise Auguste, Friedericke on October 18, 1850. She died on July 24, 1851 at 10 o'clock in the morning at the age of 15 months and 10 days.

—

On May 5, 1851 a miscarriage in the 4th or 5th month.

On February 15, 1853, at 15 minutes after 3 in the afternoon, our

Bertha

was born. On the 17th of June she was baptized Bertha Mathilde.

—

On October 17, 1854 at half past 10 o'clock in the morning our

Louis

was born. On March 1, 1857 he was baptized

Louis Friedrich.

—

On December 21, 1856 at 9 o'clock in the evening our stillborn son was born.

—

Am 18ten Januar 1877
wurde unsere Bertha durch
Pastor Rückenberg mit
Herr Krauß von Cleveland
getraut.

Am 17 Mai 1878, Mor-
gens zwischen 1 und 2 Uhr
wurde Berthas erstes Kind,
ein Mädchen geboren. Am
18. Septembr wurde die
Taufe des Kindes durch Pastor Rich-
mann von Fittsburg vo-
llzogen und erhielt der Name
Louise Marie.

Am 22 Octobar 1880 Morgens zwischen
7 und 8 Uhr wurde Lenchens zweites
Kind, ein Mädchen geboren.
Am 9 März 1881 wurde die durch Pastor
Lincoln St Paul's getauft.
erhielt den Namen
Alma Louise

Am 22 October 1857 zogen wir in
unsere neuen Häuser, Ecke der Penn
und Front Str.

(1860.)

Am 20. März Dienstag Nachmittag, kam
das Unglück, in der Dunkelheit ein
kleines Kind zu beschen. Am
11. Mai konnte sie zum
ersten Male wieder besser
nachdem sie zwei Wochen lang
auf dunklen gesessen war.

(1861.)

Im August Piano gekauft von
Lippmann für $340 (in $10 Anzahlungen)
Bertha fing mit Lehrer
üben an. Der regelmäßige
Unterricht begann mit
1. Januar 1862 bei Frau
E. Jennike.

On January 18, 1877
our Bertha was married to
George Krauss of Cleveland
by the Reverend
Stuckenberg.

—

On May 17, 1878, between
1 and 2 in the morning,
Bertha gave birth to a girl.
She was baptized
Louise Marie
on September 18
by Pastor Richmann
of Pittsburg.

On October 22, 1880 between
7 and 8 o'clock in the morning
Bertha gave birth to her second
girl. On March 9, 1881 she was
baptized. Alma Fieser
by Pastor Lincoln
at St. Paul's Church.

On October 22, 1857 we moved
to our new house which was on
Front Street.

—

(1860.)
On Tuesday afternoon,
March 20th, our Louis
broke his left leg in the
printing room and had to
stay in bed for six weeks
and, prior to the 11th of
May, walked on crutches
for two weeks.

—

(1861.)
in August bought a piano from
Lippmann for $40. (a[nd] $10
announcement/advertisement)
Bertha had since this last Nov.
practiced; the regular
lessons began however on
1 January 1862 with Miss
E. Dermile

(1862)

Am 15 Juli trafen wir mit den Dirksens mit Emilie Hesse-miller und Dreyels und Mit-hoff Hermann von Kellog-Island, blieben dort bis Montag und trafen von dort nach Joffin; blieben dort bis Donnerstag, 2 Uhr Morgens und kamen dann nach Columbus zurück.

—

Am 14 September 1862 ver-heurathete Gustav Bertha; die Krankheit Klug in wenigen Tagen in das Nervenfieber über. 5 Wochen lang war sie lebensgefährlich krank, das nächste Zeichen der Besserung zeigte sich am 17 October; sie bekam dann das Wechsel-

(1863.)

Abgereist Dienstag, 28 Juli, über Port Wayne. Ankommen in Chicago Mittwoch Morgen, 7½ Uhr; fahren mit Dunton Station und dann von Bensenville mit Schaumburg, wo wir gegen Abend eintreffen. Bleiben dort bis Richmann bis Dienstag Morgen, 4 Uhr (mussten während dessen Aufenthalts nach Bloomingdale und Elgin.) Schaumburg am Dienstag Morgen mit Richmanns in Lagg und fahren Wagen mit Dunton Station, von dort mit Chicago; logirten in Scholls Hotel (Kunzig — Mattson vor Mürgditsch). Besuch und in der Stadt um. Am Mittwoch Morgen um 9 Uhr von Chicago fort von Dampfboot Sunbeam — guter Boot, blow ℔ 1½ bis Jackson (℔ 4½ für alles) Gutes Dinner eingenommen. Musik. Treffen Abends 9/25 Uhr in Milwaukie via Fon du L.

(1862)

On July 15 we travelled to Kelleys Island, with the children, with Emily Hefenmiller and Dresels and Mithoff families, stayed there till the following Monday and travelled from there to Tiffin; remained there till Saturday, 26th in the morning and then went back to Columbus.

—

On September 14, 1862 our Bertha fell sick; after a few days the sickness turned into a nerve fever. She was seriously ill for 5 weeks. The first signs of improvement showed up on October 17; she regained some appetite.

(1863.)

Left Tuesday, 28 July, via Fort Wayne. Arrived in Chicago on Wednesday in the morning, half past 7; immediately to Dunton Station and then per coach to Schaumburg, where we arrived in the evening. Stayed there with the Rickmanns until Tuesday morning, 4 August (while there did excursions to Bloomingdale and Elgin) From Schaumburg on Tuesday morning with Rickmanns in a buggy and ... coach to Dunton Station, from there to Chicago; stayed at Schalls Hotel (ninety – masses of mosquitos). Looked around the city. On Wednesday morning left from Chicago per steamship Sunbeam – good boat, only $ 1 ½ per person ($ 4 ½ for all of us) good dinner included; music. Arrived half past 4 in the evening in Milwaukee. Stayed

Dunton Station is now called Arlington Heights. I didn't understand what was meant by "ninety - masses of mosquitos," until the translator, Valeska Nygren, suggested that ninety probably referred to the air temperature.

Charles Hotel logirt, gut ($4 für alles) Donnerstag Nacht weg 12 Uhr mit Boot, (Ocean Steamer) den Morgen 4 Uhr abgang und gegen 8 Uhr Morgens in Grand Haven eintreff. Von dort weg Grand Rapids, wo wir 12 Uhr Mittags eintreffen und Nachts 12 Uhr Vergnügungs weg Detroit abfahren. Treffen in Detroit gegen 8 Uhr Morgens (Samstag) ein. Bleiben auf dem Boot ein gerechnet, bis nach ein 9 Uhr abends weg Cleveland abgang, wo wir Sonntag Morgen um 5 Uhr eintreffen. Logiren im Betz Hotel (sehr Heimisch), müssen bis Montag Morgen und 5 Uhr bleiben, weil kein Zug abgang. Treffen am Montag Morgen, 10. August, schon weg 11 Uhr wohlbehalten in Columbus ein. (Passage von Milwaukie weg Detroit für alles $19; sollte $10 die wenigst und Passage kosten.

—

April 20., wie Louise weg Cincinnati, gewiss drei Tage dort geblieben, im Gibson House logirt. Alles gut.

—

November 2., mit Bertha weg Cincinnati. Bleiben drei Tage da.

—

at the Charles Hotel; good ($ 4 for all of us) Thursday night after 12 o'clock onto the boat (ocean steamer) which left at 4 o'clock in the morning and arrived around 8 o'clock in Gran Haven. From there to Gran Rapids, where we arrived 12 noon and left at night 12 o'clock per train to Detroit. Arrived in Detroit around 8 o'clock in the morning (Sunday) and stayed in quarters on the boat that only left for Cleveland at 9 o'clock in the evening, where we arrived on Sunday morning at 5 o'clock. Stayed at the City Hotel (very dirty). Had to stay until Monday morning at 5 o'clock, because there was no train leaving. Arrived safely in Columbus on Monday morning, 10th of August some time after 11 o'clock . (passage from Milwaukee to Detroit for all $ 19; so costs $ 10 for an adult person.

———

April 20th, travelled with Louise to Cincinnati. Stayed there for three days. Stayed at the Gibson House. Very Good.

———

November 2nd, with Bertha to Cincinnati. Stayed there [?] for three days

This entry was written by Friedrich, but it's not clear who accompanied him on the trip. On the previous page he reports paying $4.50, or $1.50 each, for passage on the steamer from Chicago to Milwaukee, which suggests there were three people. On the next page he writes that passage from Milwaukee to Detroit cost $19 for all and $10 for an adult. He may have travelled with his children, Bertha and Louis, who would have been 10 and 8 years old at the time.

(1864.)

Im Januar reisen Louis u.
Mädchen Unterricht bei
meinen
Fräulein Lesqueren

Juli 31. ging Bertha auf
Tiffin und Retour am 29 August.

1876

Am 31 Juli reisten unsere
Louis auf Philadelphia,
besuchte das Centennial und
kehrte am 10 August mit
dem Dampfschiff "Suevia"
von Hamburg ab, hier-
auf
Ida und

(1864.)
In January Louis had
his first music lessons with
Miss Lesquereux
—

July 31st Bertha went to
Tiffin and returned on 23 August.
—

1876
On 31 July our Louis travelled
to Philadelphia
visited the Centennial and
sailed on 19 August with
the steam boat "Suevia"
to Hamburg land-
ed on

This entry records Louis Fieser's departure for study in Vienna. German was the language spoken in his home, and it's likely that he attended German public schools, where the quality of education was so high that even non-German residents of Columbus sometimes sent their children there to be educated. In this entry, as in a few others, Friedrich probably intended to fill in the arrival date at a later time and then forgot to do so.

1887

Geboren

Am 23 Sept. Freitag Morgens 6 Uhr
verblieben Lorettas jüngstes Kind einer
Knabe den Namen Gott beschützen
und gut werden.

Getauft durch Pastor Lincoln
erhielt den Namen Friedrich Lister

Pathen
Vater und Marie Kurschenz.

am 2ten Januar 1888

1882

Geboren

Am 12 Dezember Morgens 6 Uhr
wurde Lorettas drittes Kind geboren

Getauft durch Pastor Lincoln
erhielt den Namen Loretta Maria

Pathen
Herr und Frau Kurschenz.

am 8 August 1883

1888

Mittwoch 21 Juni. Durch Loretta
ihren Arm

1887

Born

On 23 September Friday morning 6 o'clock
Bertha's fourth child a boy arrived
in this world. May God let him become
godly and good.
Baptized by Pastor Lincoln
was given the name Friedrich Fieser

God parents

Father and Martha Kerschaw
on 2nd of January 1888

1882 Born

On 12th September at 6 o'clock in the
morning Bertha's third child was born
Baptized by Pastor Lincoln
was given the name Bertha Martha

God parents

Mr. and Mrs. Kershaw.
on 8. August 1883

1888

Wednesday 21 June. Berthe broke
her arm

1888

Mein lieber kleiner Enkel, Fritz Fischer ist heim gegangen in sein besser Welt. Am Sontag den 29 Sept Abends um 10 Uhr 30 Minuten verschied der liebe kleine Knabe im Alter von 7 Monat 6 Tage. Warum ging er so früh? Was Gott thut das ist wohl gethan.

Die lieblich Knospen so jung und so schön schnell brach sie der Tod ab mit kalter Hand Goldblüthen die auf der Erde man sah sie blühen für Himmlisch Land.

Der Herr hat ihn gegeben der Herr hat ~~der Herr hat~~ ihn genommen der Name des Herren sei hoch gelobt

Lasst die Kinder zu mir kommen und wehret ihnen nicht denn solchen ist das Himmelreich.

Ach mein Kind du bist so im Himmel selig. Wiedersehen! O Wiedersehen!

1884. April. Heute von der Marie Rosa [illegible] für ℳ 7225 von J. A. Schumacher, [illegible] 15 Mai resp bis wird Loan ℳ 2225 — ℳ 5000 in Mortgage Note gegen Mortgage

1888
My dear little grand-son, Fritz Fieser
went home to a better world.
On Sunday the 29 . April in the evening
at 10 hours 30 minutes he passed, the dear
little sufferer at the age of 7 months 6 days.
Why did you go so early? What God has done
has been done well.
The sweet bud so young and so beautiful.
The swift hand of death broke it quickly
It did blossom but one could see
it blossomed for the Land of Paradise.
The Lord has given him the Lord has
taken him the name
of the Lord be praised on high.
Let the little children come to me and
do not hinder them for the kingdom of heaven
belongs to such as these. O if
my death were also such a blessed one.
Good-bye! Good-bye!

1884. April. House on
Main Street sold
for $ 7225 to G. A.
Schauweker, who on
15 May took possession of it
cash $ 2225 – 5000 in
bills against mortgage.

The house on Main Street is the same house referred to in an earlier diary entry as "our new house on Front Street" that the family moved into on October 22, 1857. During the 26 1/2 years the Fiesers lived there, Front Street was renamed Main Street.

Wechsel ausgestellt
3 Mai 1884 an Wm.
Kessler, Geo. L. Brand
und Peter Hinterschitt
für $ 25000. Laut
$ 55 37 — an Protest u.
Judgement Notes,
mit Zinsen, Essen
Brand Verlängerung
von Theodor
Hinterschitt auf Lage
für Peter Hinterschitt.

Mai Lots
Verkauf von Geo. H. Twiss,
Nos
für $ 7100 baar.

1884

Montags Abend nach 8 Uhr
nach Deutschland abgereist.
Ihre Kinder und Frau, und meinen
Kinder und Enkelinnen gaben uns
das Geleit zum Depot

Donnerstag 12 Juni Nachmittag um
2 Uhr auf dem Dampfer Hohenstaufen
abgefahren. Seltener
Donnerstag 26 Juni glücklich in Havre an
gekommen

Westboten sold on
3 May 1884 to Mr.
Kemmler, George Brandt
and Peter Hintersschitt
for $ 25000. cash
$ 5537 – the rest in
judgment notes,
with ↘ second[?], first [?]
Brand (extend)
and Theodor
Hintersschitt as guarantor
for Peter Hintersschitt

—

Bought on May Lots
Nos[?] from Geo. H. Twiss,
for $ 7100 cash.

—

1884
Departed for Germany
Monday evening after 8 o'clock.
Mr. Reinhard and his wife and
my children and granddaughter
went with us to the depot.
Departed Thursday afternoon
June 12 at 2 on the steamer
Hohenstaufen. Baltimore[?]
. Arrived safely Thursday,
June 26, in Bremen.

These notes about the purchase of property from George Twiss are incomplete. Mr. Twiss lived on Hamilton Avenue. It's possible that the sale above was for property on Hamilton Avenue, where Friedrich and Louise lived in 1888 (per the Columbus directory) and probably earlier, beginning after their 1885 return from European travels.

After Friedrich retired from journalism and sold his share of the newspaper in May 1884 and the family home in April 1884, Friedrich and Louise went to Germany and toured their homeland and other places in Europe for just over a year.

1885.

Mittwoch 17 Juli mit dem Dampfer
Ems von Lemmen abgefahren
Samstag 11 Juli Morgens im Herbergen
Hebekon angekommen
Sontag 12 Juli in Luylenburg zwei
Posten u. Reisegesellschaft in Löhnhorst
ankommen

1888

Montag den 10 Dezember mit meinem
Vater nach Californien abgereist.
Samstag den 19 Januar 1889 Nachmittag
12 Uhr ankgekommen. Dem lieben Gott für
seine Gute Lob und Dank.
Es war eine schöne glückliche Zeit, die ich mit
meinem Vater verlebte.
Dieses 6 Monate waren die besten in
meinem langen Leben

1885.

Left on Wednesday 1st of July
from Bremen with the steamer Ems.
. Arrived at Hoboken harbor on
Sunday 11 July in the morning.
. Arrived in Columbus on Sunday 12
July
accompanied by son a[nd] son-
in-law.

1888

Left for California with my son on
Monday, December 10.
Returned Saturday, January 19, 1889,
at midnight. Praise and thanks
be to the dear Lord for his kindness.
These were good and happy times that
I spent with my son.
These 6 weeks were the best
in my long marriage.

This diary entry documents Friedrich and Louise's trip home after their year-long European tour.

1889.

Geboren Mittwoch den 11ten December
Morgens um ½ 4 Uhr mein
fünftes Enkel.

Lieber Gott erhalte sein junges
Leben und lasse Ihn zu einen
frommen guten Leben auch erwachsen

1890

Sonntag den 9ten März wurde dieses
Kind getauft. Erhielt den Namen
Georg Fischer.

1889.
Born on Wednesday the 11th of December
in the morning at half past ten o'clock my
fifth grandchild.
Dear God preserve his young
life and let him grow into a
faithful good son.
1890.
On Sunday the 9th of March this child
was baptized. He was given the names
Georg Fieser.

1890

Starb am Samstag 20 Tage um 11
Uhr Morgens, meine fünf monatliche
Tochter Anna Fischer
Tochter im Alter von 9 Jahr 10 Mo. 23 Tg.
Lieber Gott und Heiland du hast uns
schwere Heimgesucht. Du nahmst uns dieses
liebes Kind in das blühte ihres Jugend.
Sie war so gut, munter, und immer froh
gewest und fröhlich. Sie war der Sonnenschein
im Hause. Die ganze Veldwein hat
sein gestlagt, und sie hat das müssen so
Leyd leiden. Lieber Heiland deine Wege
sind unerforschlich du gibst sie und nehmst
wieder sie wieder. Ich setze selbst
so viele Kinder vorhem nun muß ich auch
noch meine Engelkinder stehen sehe.
O welche Seligkeit wird es sein wenn uns
gegeben Leiden, sind Alle dem

1890

After suffering for 5 months, my
second grandchild, Alma Fieser
Krauss died at the age of 9 years,
10 months and 23 days, on
Saturday September 20,
at 11 o'clock in the morning.
Dear God and Savior you have
punished us severely. You took
from us this dear child during the
best years of her youth. She was
so good, so lively and always
cheerful and merry. She was the
sunshine in our house. She endured
so much but never complained
and had to suffer for a long time.
Dear Savior, your paths are uncharted,
you give them to us and you take them
away! I myself have lost so many children

Leben werden, vereint zu sein.

Johannes 11, 25 Jesus die Auferstehung
und das Leben. Wer an mich glaubt,
der wird leben, ob er gleich stürbe.

Wenden uns zu belehren werden wir
gesetzt, der Herr der Tode geht,
und jemand Sterben, und ins den
Sterben. Glaubst du Gott.

Der Tod des lieben Kindes hat uns Alle
sehr rasch getroffen doch Du weißt am
besten was uns gut ist.

Du hast ja unser Flehen und bist
jetzt bei den Scharen, die ewig
Ihrem Heilande sind

Ihre Seele preise Gott, daraus
will er mit Ihr aus dem Leben
Leben. Matth. Kap. 4. 14.

and now I must watch my grand-
children die. Oh, what salvation
it will be, to be reunited after all the
suffering with all our loved ones.
(Johannis 11-25) I am the resurrection
and the life. Those who believe in me
will live, even if they die. To be reborn
and be led to the Kingdom of Heaven.
Praise be to God.
The death of our dear child has hurt
us all very deeply. However, you know
best what is good for us. She only
went to sleep, and now she is among
the sheep and will find her Savior.
God was pleased with her soul, so he
hurried to take her away from this hard
life. Wisdom Sirach 4.14.

1891

am 8 Mai starb an der Gehirnhaut
6 Tage krank im alter von 76 Jahren
mein lieber guter Mann.
Wir fanden ihn den 6 Morgens todt im Bette
Sein Tod muß ein sanfter gewesen sein
wir wissen nicht wer geschrien noch.
Er war 47 Jahre unser Ehe war er niemals
ernstlich krank gewesen.
Gestimmt sanft lieber Entschlief zum ewigen
Auferstehung Morgen.
Ich sehne auf zu meinem Vater, und zu
eurem Vater, zu meinem Gott, und
zu eurem Gott.
Trost gesetzt von Gott,
Am Tage der Garben zu weihen
Klopstock

1891

On the 8th of May, my dear, kind
husband died at the age of 76.
He died from the flu, after being
sick for only 6 days. We found
him dead in his bed in the morning.
His death must have been a
peaceful one, he seemed to be
still asleep. During our 47 years
of marriage, he has never been
really ill. Sleep in peace my dear
Fritz, until tomorrow's great
resurrection. I will rise to my
Father, and to our Father, to my
Lord, and to our Lord.
Seed sown by God
To ripen for the day of harvest.
(Klopstock)

The last two lines of this diary entry are from Friedrich Gottlieb Klopstock's work, "Der Messias." They appear on Klopstock's tombstone. (The source of this information is Valeska Nygren, who translated the name Klopstock as well as the lines just before it. The translation by the Berlitz translators was clearly inadequate.) Fieser was thought to be a descendant of Klopstock. Fieser's mother was born in the same town as Klopstock, but there is no information to support a familial relationship.

1891

Verlobt am 30 Juni.

Mein Sohn Louis F. Fischer mit

Fräulein Martha M. Kaufmann.

1892.

am 13 Juni wurde meinem Sohn eine

Tochter geboren. Lieber Heiland ich bitte

Dich lass Sie fromm und gesund aufwachsen

Sie wurde getauft am 14 August

Wer glaubet und getauft wird, der

wird selig werden

1893

am 15 Juli wurde mein Sohn verehrt

durch die Geburt eines gesunden Knaben

wurde getauft am 3 September.

Lasst die Kindlein zu mir kommen,

und wehret ihnen nicht, denn solcher ist

das Reich Gottes Luc 18-16. Louise F.

1891

On the 30th of June my son Louis F. Fieser married Miss Martha V. Kershaw.

1892.

On the 13th of June, a daughter was born to my son. Dear Lord, I ask you, let her grow up merciful and healthy. She was baptized on the 14th of August. He, who believes in God, and is baptized, will be blessed.

1893

On the 15th of July, my son was delighted by the birth of his healthy boy. The child was baptized on September 3rd. Let the children come to me, and they will be rewarded. (Lucas 18 16) Louise F.

1892.

am 31 Oktober zog mein Vater Lie-
in sein neues Haus.
Lieber Gott du wollest Ihn und seine
Familie in Friedfertigkeit, Gottes
furcht und Gesundheit erhalten.

1893

vom 9ten auf den 10 Sept. Nacht
von 12 Uhr, brach Feuer aus in meiner
Halle. Meine 2 schöne Pferde und
5. Zweijährige Pferd verbrannten, also
die Zeugen starben. Der Stall ist
ganz ausgebrannt.
Das schreckliche Feuer und das Leiden der
armen Pferde werde ich nie vergessen
Lieber Gott behüte uns vor mehr Unglück

1894

Am 9ten Januar um 3 Uhr Nachmittag
starb mein lieber kleiner Enkel Fritzine
alter von 6 Monat.
Lieber Jesus du hast uns Alle schwer heim-
gesucht. tröste du die armen betrübte
Eltern. Er ist ja von allen Leid
Leid und Schmerz entrückt. Was von Gott
kommt ist immer gutmeinen Menschen
Ziehe hin, mein Kind! zum ewigen Leben,
Lassen,
Wir lassen dich mit Thränen, aber gerne
Du bist bei ihm mit seinen Engeln,
Dort singst du Jubellieder,
Dort finden wir dich wieder.
Unser Jesus gewähre uns allen eine fro-
Wiedersehen bei der

1892

On the 31st of October my son
Louis moved into his new house.
Dear God, you wanted to keep
him and his family in peace,
God's fear and health.

1893

During the night on the 9th to the 10th of
September before midnight, a fire broke
out and burned down my barn. My two
beautiful horses as well as G. Krönf's
horse burned to death. The hoses came
too late. The barn is completely destroyed.
The destructive fire as well as the suffering of
the horses I will never forget.
Dear God save us from further misfortune.

1894

On the 9th of January, at 3 o'clock in
the afternoon, my dear little grand-
child Fritz died at the age of 6 months.
Dear Jesus, you have called so
many of us back to you. Console
the poor, grief-stricken parents.
He is redeemed from all earthly
suffering and pain.
What God gives us is for our
good, go to him, my child, to our
beloved Master. We let you with
tears, but you will be received
with joy. There you will find songs
of rejoice, and there we will see you
again.

1895

Den siebzehn Tag im 14 April wurde
unser kleiner Bube sein zweites Mädchen
geboren, und am 9 Juni getauft
und erhielt den Namen Mathilda.

Er den Namen den wir ihr gaben
Herr du hast sie zum ewigen Leben
Lieben Gott erlösen mein Gebet.
und erhalte Sie gesund und erhalte
Sie auf deinen Wegen.

1899

Den 7 April wurde unser Bube
ein gesunder Knabe geboren.
und erhielt die heilige Taufe den 28 Mai
Herr Jesu lasse Ihn dein und gut aufwachsen
und erhielt den Namen Louis Friedrich

Todes-Anzeige.

Starb: Am Mittwoch, den 10. Januar 1900, Nachmittags um halb nach 3 Uhr, Frau

Louise Fieser,

Wittwe von Friedrich Fieser, im Alter von 83 Jahren. Das Begräbniß findet am Freitag, den 12. Januar, Nachmittags 2 Uhr, vom Trauerhause, No. 75 Hamilton Avenue aus statt.

Beisetzung der Leiche auf dem Kirchhofe (Green Lawn) privat.

1t Die trauernden Hinterbliebenen.

1895

On April 14th, during Holy Easter;
a second girl was born to my son.
She was baptized on the 9th of
June and named Martha.
Yes, the name we receive will
be written into eternal life.
Dear God, listen to my prayer;
keep her healthy and on the
right path.

1899

On April 7th, a healthy boy was born
to my son. He was given the holy
baptism on the 28th of May.
Dear Jesus, let him grow up merciful and
faithful. He received the name Louis Friedrich

Obituary.

Died: On Wednesday, January 10, 1900, in the afternoon at half past three, Mrs.

Louise Fieser,

widow of Friedrich Fieser, at the age of 83. The burial will take place on Friday, January 12th, 2 p.m., from the house of mourning, No. 75 Hamilton Avenue.
Burial at the church yard (Green Lawn) private.

My limited familiarity with the German language and lack of knowledge about Victorian era funeral customs made the translation of this obituary challenging. Google Translate's "house of mourning" seemed strange, but my research indicated that "house of mourning" was a term that was used in American obituaries at the time. Funerals would take place *from* (rather than *at)* either the home of the deceased or the church, *to* the graveyard.

Todes-Anzeige.

Starb: Am Samstag, den 20. September 1890, um 11 Uhr Morgens, nach fünfmonatlichem Leiden

Alma Fieser Krauß

zweite Tochter von Georg und Bertha Krauß, im Alter von 9 Jahren, 10 Monaten und 23 Tagen. Beerdigung um halb 3 Uhr am Dienstag Nachmittag vom Hause, No. 75 Hamilton Avenue.—Privat.

Starb:

Am Sonntag den 29. April, Abends halb nach elf Uhr,

Friedrich Fieser,

Sohn von George C. und Bertha Kraus, im Alter von 7 Monaten und 6 Tagen. Die Beerdigung fand heute (Dienstag) Nachmittag statt.

Starb:

Fieser, Frederick, das einzige Söhnchen von Louis F. und Martha B. Fieser, am Dienstag Nachmittag im Alter von 6 Monaten. Das Begräbniß findet statt morgen (Donnerstag) Nachmittag um 2 Uhr, Sonnenzeit von der St. Pauls Episcopal Kirche. Das Begräbniß privat.

June 9th 1894

Wiederum

Ist eine alte deutsche Pionierin dahingegangen.

In der Wohnung ihrer Tochter Frau George C. Krauß, No. 75 Hamilton Avenue, ist spät gestern Nachmittag eine unserer ältesten und angesehensten deutschen Pionierinnen, Frau Louisa Fieser, im Alter von 83 Jahren verschieden. Die Verstorbene war die Wittwe von Herrn Friederich Fieser, welcher ihr bereits am 8. Mai 1891 im Tode vorausgegangen ist. Frau Fieser ist an den Verletzungen, die sie vor einigen Wochen in Folge eines Falles erlitten hat, gestorben. Sie hinterläßt zwei Kinder, die bereits erwähnte Frau George C. Krauß und Herrn Louis Fieser, welcher in der hiesigen Geschäftswelt eine sehr prominente Rolle spielt. Die Beerdigung findet morgen Nachmittag um 2 Uhr von dem Trauerhause aus statt.

Frau Fieser, geb. Schede, kam vor ungefähr 60 Jahren aus Elberfeld nach Amerika und verheirathete sich in 1845 mit Herrn Fieser, welcher bekanntlich mit dem verstorbenen Herrn Jacob Reinhard den „Westbote“ und später das bekannte Bankgeschäft Reinhard & Co. gründete.

Obituary:

Died: On Saturday, the 20th of September 1890, at 11 o'clock in the morning, after five months of suffering

Alma Fieser Krauss

second daughter of Georg and Bertha Krauss, at the age of 9 years, 10 months and 23 days. Funeral at half past 2 on Tuesday afternoon from the home, No. 75 Hamilton Avenue. — Private.

Died:

On Sunday evening the 29th of April at half past ten

Friedrich Fieser,

son of George C. and Bertha Kraus, at the age of 7 months and 6 days. The funeral took place today (Tuesday) in the afternoon.

Died:

Fieser, Frederick, the first son of Louis F. and Martha V. Fieser, Thursday afternoon, at the age of 6 months. The funeral takes place tomorrow (Thursday) afternoon at 2 o'clock, solar time from St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Private funeral.

Der Westbote death notices for Friederich and Louise Fieser's three grandchidren: Alma Fieser Krauss (d. 20 September 1890), Friedrich Fieser Krauss (d. 29 April 1888), and Friedrich Fieser (d. 9 January 1894).

In Turn

—

An old German pioneer has passed away.

—

Late yesterday afternoon Mrs. Louisa Fieser, one of our oldest and most respected German pioneers, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. George C. Krauss, No. 75 Hamilton Avenue, at the age of about 83 years. The deceased was the widow of Mr. Friederich Fieser, who preceded her in death on May 8, 1891. Frau Fieser died from injuries suffered as a result of a fall a few weeks ago. She left behind two children, the already mentioned Mrs. George C. Krauss and Mr. Louis Fieser, who plays a very prominent role in local business. The funeral takes place tomorrow afternoon at the house of mourning.

Mrs. Fieser, born Schede, came from Elberfeld to America about 60 years ago and in 1845 married Mr. Fieser, who with the deceased Mr. Jacob Reinhard founded the "Westbote" and later the well known banking business Reinhard & Co.

Der Westbote obituary for Louise Schede Fieser, 24 August 1816 - 10 January 1900.

1896 den 25 Februar
Starb meine liebe Schwester
Frau Mathilde Selbach, im
Alter Jahren beinah 86 Jahre alt
die mit Thränen säen, werden
mit Freuden ernten.

✝ Frau Mathilde Selbach. ✝

Gestern starb in Portage, Wisconsin, Frau Mathilda Selbach, Mutter von Karl, Wilhelm und Heinrich Selbach hierselbst, im hohen Alter von 86 Jahren. Die Verstorbene wohnte früher längere Zeit in Columbus und war aus Elberfeld, in der Rheinprovinz, gebürtig.

1896 On the 25th of February my dear sister Mrs. Mathilde Selbach died of old age. She was almost 86 years old. Those with tears will be received with happiness.

+ Mrs. Mathilde Selbach. +

Mrs. Mathilde Selbach, mother of Karl, Wilhelm, and Heinrich Selbach of this city, died yesterday in Portage, Wisconsin at the age of 86. The deceased previously lived for many years in Columbus and was born in Elberfeld in the Rhine Province.

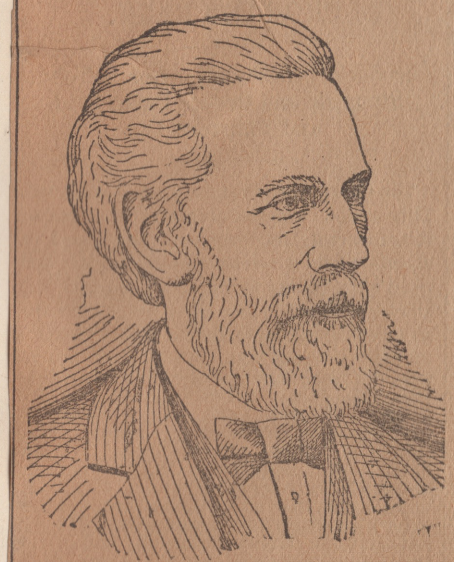
Der Westbote obituary for Louise Schede Fieser's sister, Mathilde Schede Selbach.

RETIRED BY DEATH.

Sudden Demise of Frederick Fieser, Veteran Journalist, Banker and Honored Citizen.

Stricken Down After Making Arrangements to Give Up Active Business Life.

His Great Interest in Education and the Public Libraries.



FREDERICK FIESER.

The veteran journalist, banker and good citizen, Frederick Fieser, is dead. He was found cold and lifeless in his bed yesterday morning by his daughter. The announcement was startling to the many friends of the honored man, but few of whom knew of his recent indisposition.

From Ohio State Journal Sat. May 9" 1891

Mr. Fieser's illness assumed a serious nature on Sunday last. He had been suffering from la grippe and from Sunday on the ailment took on the nature of congestion of the lungs. He complained of not feeling so well as usual upon retiring Thursday night, but at 2 a. m. yesterday, when his daughter gave him his medicine, his condition was not such as to cause any apprehension. At 4 o'clock he conversed with his wife, and, feeling restless, got up and walked around the room several times, then lay down and was soon asleep. Mrs. Fieser was awake all the time, and when her daughter came into the room at 5 a. m. she told her not to disturb her father, as he was sleeping, remarking about his having been up and around, and regarding it as a favorable sign. On touching her father she made the horrifying discovery that he was dead. He lay in his natural position, as if asleep, and his end must have been quick and painless.

Frederick Fieser was born in Wolfenbuettel, Brunswick, Germany, October 14, 1817. He came to America in 1836, settling in Baltimore. He was for some time engaged in selling pianos of the Knabe make through Virginia. He came to Ohio in 1839, being a resident of Lancaster and the editor of the Ohio Volksfreund. In 1841 the paper removed to Columbus and changed to the Adler. Mr. Fieser did not come to Columbus with the paper, but intended going to St. Louis; instead of doing so, however, he went to Louisville in 1841, remaining until 1842, when he went to Cincinnati as the editor of the Volksblatt under Stephen Molitor. Mr. Fieser came to Columbus in 1843 and with Mr. Jacob Reinhard bought a complete new outfit and started the Westbote, the Eagle in the meantime having suspended and there being no German paper at the time. Mr. Fieser assumed the editorship, which position he retained for forty-one years, selling out his interest in 1884 to the present Westbote company. In the summer of 1884 he revisited the scenes of his boyhood, and prolonging his stay for over a year, visited the points of interest on the continent. Mr. Fieser was a lineal descendant of Klopstock, the noted German author. In 1868 the present banking firm of Reinhard & Co. was organized, consisting of Messrs. Jacob Reinhard, Frederick Fieser, Joseph Falkenbach and S. S. Cox. Mr. Fieser retained his connection with the banking firm up to the time of his death. Through this business association a strong friendship was formed between Mr. Fieser and Mr. Cox, which never varied.

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This version is included because the original is so discolored by age that it is difficult to read.

Ohio State Journal - May 9 "1891

Mr. Fieser was married in 1843 to Miss Schade, then a resident of Dayton, O., and their union was blessed with several children, but two of whom are now living, the others having died in infancy. Those left to mourn the loss of a kind and indulgent father are Mrs. Bertha Fieser Krauss, wife of Mr. George C. Krauss, the well-known business man, and Mr. Frederick Louis Fieser, at present stationed at Hartford, Conn., in the civil engineer department of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railway.

The business associations of the deceased with Mr. Jacob Reinhard dating over forty-seven years is one of such rare occurrence as to be almost remarkable. The two men were of different religious creed but this or no other cause ever resu ted in a misunderstanding or a jar in nearly half a century. Each one had his own duties which were discharged satisfactory to the other. Mr. Fieser was bel oved by all who ever came in social or business contact with him and particularly so by his employes. He was congenial in his friendship. He was well educated, being an excellent French scholar, and his tastes were inclined to literature. Very modest in his disposition, he never obtruded himself and only his intimate friends were aware of his rare attainments. He was one of the most influential writers in the country, and was the friend of the workingman and farmer to whom most of his editorial writings were addressed. His arguments were not couched in abstruse phraseology but in simple and plain terms easily understood by every one, and to this is due much of the popularity of the Westbote. Mr. Fieser's life has been a busy one and he had just completed arrangements to retire from active business and to turn his affairs over to his son who was expected home next week.

Mr. Fieser took a great interest in the city's libraries and a resume of his connection with the Public library would be almost its history from inception. As president of the board of education Mr. Fieser was present as an x-officio member of the board of library trustees at the first meeting ever held in the interest of the Public library, February 19, 1872. At that time an organization was effected under an ordinance of the city council. Mr. Fieser was appointed as committeeman to se ure books and was also made chairman of the committee to furnish the library-rooms. This committee on books secured the transfer of all the books belonging to the "Columbus Atheneum" to the trustees to form a nucleus to the present library. July 18, 1872, Mr. Fieser was unanimously chosen president pro tem. of the board of trustees and held this office until June, 1873, when his term expired, he being succeeded by Dr. Starling Loving as president of the board of educa tion. Mr. Fieser had no further connection with the library board until June, 1877, when he was elected regular trustee by the city council for two years, since which time he has been continuously re-elected by the various councils without regard to party political control, testimonial alike to his recognized interest in public affairs and his high standing as a citizen. He was elected secretary of the library board June 7, 1877, and was continued as such up to the time of his death. He was a great reader himself and was an almost daily visitor at the library rooms, being constantly on the alert to secure the best interests of the institution. He secured many large donations of books for the library during his connection with the board. Under his care and supervision the German department was organized and has been nurtured until today it is one of the strongest and most frequently used of the various departments of the library. Mr. Fieser has often said he had been solicited many times to become a candidate for office, but he never would consent to run except for school board, for he considered it a duty enjoined on every citizen to do all he could for the schools and institutions of public benefit. Mr. Fieser was a member of the board of education for nine years, six years of the time as its president. The site of the present Fieser school building on the West Side was secured at his suggestion. At the time, the board of education had not the necessary funds to make the purchase, although the price was very low, and at the same time they did not want to lose the site, which was particularly well located for a school-house. Mr. Fieser bought the lots himself and held them in trust for the board until they were able to buy, transferring them to the board at the original price, although property values had risen considerably. A splendid school building was erected on the site, and named in his honor, the Fieser school. The last meeting of the library board at which Mr. Fieser was present was April 8, 1891, at which time the annual report of the librarian was presented and approved by the board. Mr. Fieser complained of being ill at this meeting. He was a strong friend of the library and was hopeful of living to see it in a prosperous and independent state.

Definite arrangements will not be perfected for the funeral until the arrival of Mr. Fieser's son today. Mrs. Fieser is quite seriously ill with the grip and her strength is sorely taxed under this additional shock.

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Atheneu m" to the trustees to form a nucleus to the present library. July 18, 1872, Mr. Fieser was unanimously chosen president pro tem. of the board of trustees and held this office until June, 1873, when his term expired, he being succeeded by Dr. Starling Loving as president of the board of educa tion. Mr. Fieser had no further connection with the library board until June, 1877, when he was elected regular trustee by the city council for two years, since which time he has been continuously re-elected by the various councils without regard to party politic l control, testimonial alike to his recogniz d interest in public affairs and his high standing as a citizen. He was elected secretary of the library board June 7, 1877, and was continued as such up to the time of his death. He was a great reader himself and was an almost daily visitor at the library rooms, being constantly on the alert to secure the best interests of the institution. He secured many large donations of books for the library during his connection with the board. Under his care and supervision the German department was organized and has been nurtured until today it is one of the strongest and most frequently used of the various departments of the library. Mr. Fieser has often said he had been solicited many times to become a candidate for office, but he never would consent to run except for school board, for he considered it a duty enjoined on every citizen to do all he could for the schools and institutions of public benefit. Mr. Fieser was a member of the board of education for nine years, six years of the time as its president. The site of the present Fieser school building on the West Side was secured at his suggestion. At the time, the board of education had not the necessary funds to make the purchase, although the price was very low, and at the same time they did not want to lose the site, which was particularly well located for a school-house. Mr. Fieser bought the lots himself and held them in trust for the board until they were able to buy, transferring them to the board at the original price, although property values had risen considerably. A splendid school building was erected on the site, and named in his honor, the Fieser school. The last meeting of the library board at which Mr. Fieser was present was April 8, 1891, at which time the annual report of the librarian was presented and approved by the board. Mr. Fieser complained of being ill at this meeting. He was a strong friend of the library and was hopeful of living to see it in a prosperous and independent state.

Definite arrangements will not be perfected tor the funeral until the arrival of Mr. Fieser's son today. Mrs. Fieser is quite seriously ill with the grip and her strength is sorely taxed under this additional shock.

Ohio State Journal Sat. May 9" 1891

Daily Dispatch Jany 11th
— 1900 —

MRS. LOUISE FIESER.

Her Death Occurred Wednesday at the Home of Her Daughter, Mrs. George C. Krauss.

The death of Mrs. Louise Fieser occurred yesterday afternoon at the home of her daughter, Mrs. George C. Krauss, 75 Hamilton avenue. Her demise was due to a general breaking down of health occasioned by her advanced age. Mrs. Fieser was born at Neu Wied on the Rhine in 1816 but came to this country in her childhood. She was 83 years old.

Mrs. Fieser had been a resident of Columbus since 1845. She was married in that year to Mr. Fieser at Dayton and came immediately to this city. Her husband was a prominent German citizen of his day. He was the founder of the Westbote, the German paper, and was the editor of the publication. He was also one of the founders of the Reinhard bank and was interested in numerous other enterprises.

Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Fieser. Both survive. They are Mr. Louis Fieser and Mrs. George C. Krauss, of this city. Mrs. Fieser was a member of St. Paul's German church. Her advanced age had made it impossible for her to take active part in charitable work for a number of years.

From "Der Westbote" Dec 25/1890

(Für den Westboten.)

Aus meinen Erinnerungen.

(Als Antwort auf mehrere Anfragen.)

Es kann wohl gesagt werden, daß ich meine Verbindung mit der deutschen Presse einem „Zufall" verdanke. Es war im Herbst 1840, daß ich ganz zufällig auf meiner Durchreise in Lancaster, Ohio, mit dem damaligen Herausgeber des „Lancaster Volksfreund", V. Kastner, zusammentraf. Ich kannte weder den Mann, noch seine Zeitung. Er ließ sich mit mir in ein Gespräch ein und erzählte mir unter Anderem, daß er für den Staat den Druck von Gouverneur Shannon's Botschaft in deutscher Sprache zu liefern habe und einen Uebersetzer dieses Dokuments suche. Schließlich fragte er mich, ob ich diese Aufgabe nicht unternehmen wolle. Ich willigte ein und machte mich mit jugendlichem Eifer an die Arbeit. Mit der Uebersetzung ging es denn auch ganz leidlich von Statten und als ich damit fertig war, übertrug mir der Herausgeber die Redaction seines Blattes, während er mit seinem Wagen in's Land zog, um mit Büchern zu hausiren. Es war eine bunte Sammlung, mit welcher er hinauskutschirte: Hauspostillen, Erbauungsbücher, Münchhausen, Eulenspiegel, Genovefa, die schöne Caroline als Husarenoberst und andere „geistreiche" Erzeugnisse der schönen Literatur. Ich glaube, daß der gute Mann mit diesem Handel mehr Geld verdiente, als mit seiner Zeitung und daß ohne diese Beihülfe das Blatt gar nicht hätte bestehen können.

Der „Volksfreund" war ein kleines Wochenblatt; die Typen, mit welchen schon im Jahre 1807 der in Lancaster erscheinende „Ohio Adler" gedruckt worden war, und die dann 30 Jahre lang geschlafen hatte, waren so stumpf und abgenutzt, daß sie auf der hölzernen Presse (Ramage press) nicht mehr recht

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(For the Westbote.)

From my Memories

(In response to multiple requests.)

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It can well be said that I owe my association with the German Press to an accident of chance. It was in the autumn of 1840 that quite accidentally, on my trip through Lancaster, Ohio, I met B. Kaftner, at that time publisher of the "Lancaster Volksfreund". I knew neither the man nor his paper. He engaged me in conversation and told me, among other things, that he was to publish Gov. Shannon's message in German and was looking for a translator of this document. Suddenly he asked me if I wouldn't undertake this task. I agreed and applied myself to the work with youthful zeal. The translation went moderately well and when I'd finished, the publisher entrusted me with writing the editorials for his paper while he was absent, traveling around the countryside in his wagon, hawking books. It was a motley collection with which he drove about: family magazines, devotional books, Baron von Münchhausen's tall tales, Eulenspiegel, Genovefa, The Beautiful Caroline as a Colonel of the Hussars, and other "witty" products of "belles lettres".

I believe that the good man earned more money in this trade than with his newspaper and that without this added income the paper would not have been able to survive.

The "Volksfreund" was a small weekly; the type, which had already been used back in 1807 by the Lancaster "Ohio Adler" and then put to bed for 30 years, was so blunt and worn that it wouldn't print properly

"From my Memories," Friedrich Fieser's interesting and entertaining story of his career in the newspaper business, was published in *Der Westbote* on December 25, 1890.

Eulenspiegel was a German political satirical magazine. *Genovefa* and *The Beautiful Caroline as a Colonel of the Hussars* were German romantic novels.

zum Vorschein kommen wollten. Die Leser klagten über den schlechten Druck, der es ihnen oft kaum möglich machte, den Sinn herauszubuchstabiren. Aber woher neue Typen nehmen? War es doch oft schwer genug, das nöthige Papier für die kleine Auflage von Woche zu Woche zu erschwingen. Ja, es war eine schwere Zeit für die Gründer deutscher Blätter! Die Herren Editoren von heute, die in gut eingerichteten Gebäuden hausen und ihre Blätter zu Tausenden per Dampf in die Welt senden, und denen Eisenbahn, Telegraph, Telephon und alle modernen Verbesserungen zu Gebote stehen, haben gar keinen Begriff von den Bedrängnissen und Entbehruagen der deutschen Zeitungs-Pioniere. Sie mußten zuerst den Boden ackern und das Fundament legen, auf welchem sich später die deutsche Presse so mächtig entfaltete.

Im Frühjahr 1841 zog der Herausgeber des „Volksfreund" nach Columbus und ließ hier sein Blatt unter dem Namen „Ohio Adler" erscheinen. Das neue Blatt wurde mit besseren Typen gedruckt, war recht ansehnlich ausgestattet und machte einen guten Eindruck. Mir blieb die Redaction und ich arbeitete mit Eifer und Liebe, machte sogar ein Gedicht für die erste Nummer, in welchem sich der „Adler" mit lautem Flügelschlage in höheren Regionen bewegte. Es ist ein Glück für mich, daß diese Jugendsünde für die Mit- und Nachwelt verloren gegangen ist.

Columbus war damals noch eine kleine Stadt, die Schweine liefen auf den ungepflasterten Straßen frei herum und galten für die besten Straßen-Commissäre; das neue Staatshaus war noch nicht gebaut und das alte würde heute selbst dem kleinsten County nicht als Courthaus genügen. Aber Columbus war der Regierungssitz und der „Adler" hätte sich wohl halten können, wenn der Herausgeber das richtige Verständniß für seine Aufgabe gehabt hätte. Schließlich gefielen mir die Verhältnisse nicht mehr und ich beschloß, nach Missouri auszuwandern, wohin damals der Strom jener deutschen Einwanderer zog, die spottweise als die „lateinischen Farmer" bezeichnet wurden. Mein Entschluß, das deutsche Zeitungselend für immer hinter mir zu lassen, stand fest. Aber der Mensch kann nun einmal seinem Schicksale nicht entgehen!

Ein Freund hatte mir einen Brief an George Walker, den Herausgeber der „Volksbühne" in Louisville, Ky, mitgegeben. Walker empfing mich sehr freundlich und brach, nachdem er den Brief gelesen, in die Worte aus: „Sie kommen gerade recht! Sie müssen hier bleiben, bis Pastor Kröll von seiner Reise zurückkehrt. Ich habe versprochen, in seiner Abwesenheit für ihn zu predigen und seine Amtsgeschäfte zu besorgen. Walker war so liebenswürdig, daß ich nicht umhin konnte, seinen Wunsch zu erfüllen. Er machte mich mit seinen Freunden bekannt und bot alles auf, um mich zu fesseln. Statt ein paar Wochen, blieb ich den ganzen Winter in Louisville. Im Frühjahr verlegte Walker sein Blatt nach Cincinnati, wo sich sein Landsmann, der Advokat Renz, mit ihm associirte. Ich ging mit nach Cincinnati.

Walker war ursprünglich ein Tübinger Theologe, ward später ein beliebter Journalist, konnte recht interessant schreiben, und seine Reden wurden immer sehr beifällig aufgenommen. Aber im Leben war er höchst unpraktisch, nachlässig in seinem Aeußeren und einer von jenen „glücklichen" Leuten, die sich keine Sorgen machen. Es war ihm ganz gleichgültig, ob sein Blatt, das dreimal wöchentlich erscheinen sollte, regelmäßig erschien oder nicht. In dem Geschäft herrschte eine wahre polnische Wirthschaft. Kurz, die „Volksbühne" war völlig unabhängig von allen Regeln und auf ihren Brettern wurden oft gar urkomische Rollen gespielt.—An Originalen und

in the wooden press (Ramage Press). The readers complained about the printing which was often so bad that they could hardly make any sense out of it. But where to get new type? It was often difficult enough to afford, from week to week, the necessary paper for the little newspaper. Yes, these were hard times for the founders of German papers! Today's editors, who live in well-equipped buildings and send thousands of copies throughout the world by steamer and have at their disposal railroad, telegraph, telephone and all the modern improvements, have no conception of the tribulations and privations of the German newspaper pioneers. They first had to break the ground and lay the foundations from which later the German press would expand so powerfully.

In the spring of 1841 the publisher of the "Volksfreund" moved to Columbus and let his paper be published here under the name of "Ohio Adler". The new paper was set with new type, quite handsomely bound, and presented a good appearance. The editing remained mine and I worked with love and zeal, even going so far for the first issue as to write a poem in which the "Adler" went soaring to the skies with a loud flapping of wings. It is lucky for me that this youthful offense has been lost for my contemporaries and for posterity.

Columbus in those days was still only a small town, with pigs running free on the unpaved streets, and still had a reputation for the best Commissioner of Roads; the new capital building had not yet been built and the old one wouldn't today even be used as a court house in the smallest county. But Columbus was the seat of government and the "Adler" could well have held out if the Publisher had rightly understood its problems. Finally, I didn't like the job anymore and quit in order to wander on to Missouri which in those days attracted a stream of those German immigrants who were mockingly known as the "latin farmers". I was determined to leave the miseries of the German newspaper behind me forever. Man, however, cannot go against his destiny.

A friend had sent with me a letter to George Walker, the publisher of the "Volksbuhne" in Louisville, Ky. Walker received me in very friendly fashion and after reading the letter broke into these words: "You come at just the right moment! You must stay here until Pastor Kroll returns from his trip. I have promised in his absence to preach for him and to look after his professional duties." Walker was so kind that I couldn't help but grant his wish. He introduced me to his friends and asked them all to keep an eye on me. Instead of a couple of weeks I stayed the whole winter in Louisville. In February Walker moved his newspaper to Cincinnati where his fellow countryman, the lawyer Renz, became his associate. I went with him to Cincinnati.

Walker, originally a theologian of the Tubingen School, became later a beloved journalist, could write interestingly, and his conversation was always entertaining. But in life he was highly impractical, careless about his statements, and was one of those lucky people who never worry about anything. It was quite immaterial to him whether his paper, which was supposed to come out three times a week, made it regularly or not. A very haphazard management of the business prevailed. In short, the "Volksbuhne" was completely independent of all rules and and as a result very comical things often happened. In

enthusiastischen Quer- und Brauseköpfen fehlte es damals unter unsern lieben deutschen Landsleuten durchaus nicht. So war unter Andern auch ein Plan für die Gründung eines deutschen Staates in Oregon ausgeheckt worden. Onkel Sam sollte das Land hergeben und fünf Schiffe liefern. Die Constitution stand schon auf dem Papiere und Oregon Schützen-Compagnien florirten in verschiedenen Städten. Der gute Walker, der eine hervorragende Rolle bei der Geschichte spielte, marschirte tapfer mit. Der deutsche Staat blieb aber glücklicherweise auf dem Papiere.

In Cincinnati machte ich die nähere Bekanntschaft von Stephan Molitor, Henry Rödter, Emil Klauprecht, Eduard Mühl, Karl Rümelin und anderen hervorragenden Spitzen des deutschen Literatenthums. Rödter, den ich schon in Columbus kennen gelernt hatte, war der eigentliche Gründer des „Volksblattes", das später in die Hände von Molitor überging. Rödter redigirte zur Zeit das „Volksblatt", bewarb sich aber um das Amt eines Friedenrichters und konnte dem Blatte nicht die gehörige Aufmerksamkeit schenken. Auf sein Ersuchen half ich ihm aus und schrieb verschiedene Aufsätze für das Blatt, die Beifall fanden, und als Rödter austrat, um sich der Advocatur zu widmen, bot mir Molitor, zu meiner großen Ueberraschung, die Redaction des „Volksblattes" an. Das war immerhin eine große „Ehre für den „bartlosen Jüngling", wie mich das dortige „Whigblatt" betitelte, besonders da sich mehrere andere, ältere und viel erfahrene Herrn um die Stelle beworben hatten. Das „Volksblatt" war damals das einzige deutsche Tageblatt in den Ver. Staaten, selbst die „New Yorker Staatszeitung" erschien nur dreimal in der Woche. Mit erneuerter Lust und Liebe ging ich an die Arbeit. Mein Verhältniß Molitor gegenüber wurde

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das freundschaftlichste und ich verlebte dort glückliche Tage, und wäre vielleicht Jahrelang auf dem Posten geblieben, wenn nicht eine plötzliche Wendung eingetreten wäre.

Im Sommer von 1842 kam Jacob Reinhard nach Cincinnati, um mich zu überreden, mit ihm in der Hauptstadt ein deutsches Blatt zu gründen, da der „Ohio Adler" eingegangen war. Ich hatte Reinhard als den Ingenieur der Nationalstraße zwischen Columbus und Springfield kennen und schätzen gelernt. Die Aussichten schienen günstig und so ging ich denn auf den Vorschlag ein. Reinhard kehrte nach Columbus zurück und überließ mir alle weiteren Vorkehrungen, wobei mir Molitor mit seinem erfahrenen Rathe freundlich zur Seite stand. Verschiedene Namen wurden von Molitor, Rödter und mir für das neue Blatt vorgeschlagen und schließlich ließen wir die Wahl durch das Loos entscheiden. Eine Tochter Molitor's zog den Namen „Der Westbote" aus dem Hute und dabei blieb es. Ich bestellte die Typen, die auf Frachtwagen von Philadelphia über die Berge nach Columbus geschleppt werden mußten und lange ausblieben. Es ist daher ein Irrthum, wenn in Freund Eckhoffs „In der neuen Heimath" gesagt wird, daß Reinhard und Fieser die Druckerei des „Adler" ankauften. Der „Westbote" trug niemals ein abgelegtes Kleid, sondern erschien am 2ten Oktober 1843 zum Erstenmal auf eigenen Füßen im funkelnagelneuen Habit. An der jetzigen Mainstraße, wo jetzt J. Eberly's elegantes Wohnhaus steht, in einem unscheinbaren Framehause, eine Treppe hoch, befand sich die „Schwarzkünstler" Bude. Mein Nachfolger in der Redaction des „Volksblattes" war Geo. Ritz, früher Rector des Gymnasiums in Meiningen, ein sehr befähigter Journalist, der eine sehr scharfe, oft nur zu bissige Feder führte.

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those days an eccentric, enthusiastic, and perversely hot-headed fellow was never missing from among our beloved German compatriots. So it came about that, among others, a plan was hatched to found a German state in Oregon. The constitution was already on paper and the Oregon Riflemen's Company flourished in several cities. The good Walker, who played a prominent role in the story, marched bravely with them. The German state, however, remained fortunately on paper.

In Cincinnati I became more closely acquainted with Stephan Molitor, Henry Rödter, Emil Klauprecht, Eduard Muhl, Karl Rummelin, and other prominent luminaries of the German literary circle. Rödter, whom I had already met in Columbus, was the real founder of the "Volksblattes" which later passed into Molitor's hands. Rödter edited the "Volksblatt" at the time but he was running for the office of justice of the peace and couldn't give the paper the proper attention. At his request I helped him out and wrote a variety of pieces for the paper which met with approval, and when Rödter left, to devote himself to the law, Molitor, to my great surprise, offered me the editorship of the paper. That was in any case a great honour for the "beardless youth", as the "Whigblatt" dubbed me, especially as many other, older, and far more experienced men had applied for the job. The "Volksblatt" was at the time the only German daily in the U. S., even the "New Yorker Staatszeitung" appeared only three times a week. With renewed vim and vigor I went to work. My relationship with Molitor was the friendliest and I spent happy days there, and would probably have remained for years in the job if something new hadn't suddenly stepped in.

In the summer of 1842, Jacob Reinhard came to Cincinnati to persuade me to found with him a German newspaper in the capital since the "Ohio Adler" had ceased to exist. I had met, and held in esteem, Reinhard who was the engineer for the national highway between Columbus and Springfield. The prospects looked favorable and so I gave notice of my resignation. Reinhard returned to Columbus and left to me all further arrangements in connection with which Molitor "stood friendly" at my side with his experienced advice. A variety of names for the new paper were suggested by Molitor, Rödter, and me, and finally we decided to draw lots for it. One of Molitor's daughters drew the name "Der Westbote" from the hat and so it was called. I ordered the type, which had to be shipped from Philadelphia by wagon over the mountains to Columbus and was a long time on the way, so that it took over a year for the first issue to appear. Therefore it was a mistake when Ekhoff stated in "In Der neuen Heimath" that Reinhard and Fieser started up the "Adler" printing house. The "Westbote" never wore faded clothes but appeared in its own sparkling new dress when it was first published on October 2nd 1843. The "magician's" shop was located on the present Main Street in a plain, insignificant-looking, one-storey, frame building where J. Eberly's elegant house now stands.

My successor as editor of the "Volksblatten" was Geo. Ritz, former principal of the Grammar School in Meiningen, a very able journalist, who

The sentence about Ekhoff's book and a portion of the sentence following it are missing from Mildred's translation. I did the best I could with Google Translate. My understanding of this passage is that Ekhoff's book about Germans in their new country must have wrongly reported that Reinhard and Fieser used the print shop that had formerly been used by the publishers of *Der Adler.*

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Rödter that sich später als Mitglied der Gesetzgebung hervor; Molitor führte sein „Volksblatt" erfolgreich fort, bis ihn das Alter zwang, sich zur Ruhe zu setzen, und das „Volksblatt" an seinen Schwiegersohn Hof, und F. Hassaureck zu übertragen.

Columbus war in 1843 immer noch sehr klein, die deutsche Bevölkerung nicht sehr zahlreich und wenig bemittelt, die deutschen Geschäftsleute konnte man an den Fingern zählen, wozu noch kam, daß in Stadt und County die Whigs in überwältigender Mehrheit waren. Die Gründung eines deutschen demokratischen Blattes war daher keine leichte Aufgabe. Dazu gehörte ein eiserner Fleiß fester Wille, strenge Sparsamkeit in den Ausgaben und unermüdliche Ausdauer. Erst nach ein paar Jahren waren die größten Schwierigkeiten überwunden. Dann aber nahm das Blatt einen kaum geahnten Aufschwung. Sein Leserkreis beschränkte sich nicht mehr auf Ohio allein, sondern dehnte sich über die angrenzenden Staaten aus. Sein Einfluß wuchs immer bedeutender und in manchen Gegenden des Staates wurde der Westbote scherzweise die „demokratische Bibel" genannt. Man wird mich hoffentlich nicht der Ruhmredigkeit beschuldigen, wenn ich sage, daß sich dieser rasche Aufschwung zum großen Theil durch die Thatsache erklärt, daß der „Westbote" den rechten Ton zu treffen wußte, indem er zu seinen Lesern in einer einfachen, allgemein verständlichen und doch nicht unedlen Sprache zu reden suchte und sich bemühte, selbst die verwickeltsten Fragen in bündiger und leicht faßlicher Weise klar zu stellen. Das machte ihn zu einer beliebten Volkszeitung, zu einem willkommenen Gaste in den Häusern und Hutten der Landsleute, die keine Zeit hatten, beim Lesen einer Zeitung ein Fremdwörterbuch nachzuschlagen oder das Hirn zu martern, um den versteckten Sinn eines dunkeln Satzes

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herauszugrübeln. Im Allgemeinen folgte der Westbote der Regel, die Göthe's Faust seinem Famulus Wagner empfahl:

„Such er den redlichen Gewinn!
Sei er kein schellenreicher Thor!
Es trägt Verstand und rechter Sinn,
Mit wenig Kunst sich selber vor;
Und wenn's euch Ernst ist, was zu sagen,
Ist's nöthig, Worten nachzujagen?"
Ja, Eure Reden, die so blinkend sind,
In denen ihr der Menschheit Schnitzel kräuselt,
Sind unerquicklich wie der Nebelwind,
Der herbstlich durch die dürren Blätter säuselt.

Im Mai 1884 wurde das Blatt von den alten Herausgebern, die mehr als vierzig Jahre treu zusammenstanden und noch heute als Partner Freud und Leid mit einander theilen, an die „Westbote Compagnie" übertragen, die dasselbe im alten Geiste fortsetzt. — Meine 44jährige Thätigkeit als Zeitungs-Redakteur läßt sich in den Worten zusammenfassen: ununterbrochene Mühe und Arbeit, zahllose Federkriege, die erbittertsten in den fünfziger Jahren in dem Kampfe zwischen den Grünen und den Grauen, vielfache Aergerlichkeiten, die nun einmal mit dem Zeitungsgeschäfte verknüpft sind, wobei der Humor, trotz alledem, nicht ausgehen durfte. Ohne Zweifel waren Irrthümer nicht ausgeschlossen, denn „es irrt der Mensch so lang er strebt." Hoffen darf ich aber doch wohl, daß manches gute Saamenkorn, das, namentlich im Interesse der aufwachsenden deutschen Jugend, im Westboten ausgestreut wurde, auf fruchtbaren Boden gefallen ist, und daß mir vielleicht noch Mancher ein freundliches Andenken bewahren wird, wenn ich nicht mehr da bin.

F. F.

wielded a very sharp and often too bitter pen. Rödter later became a member of the legislature; Molitor carried his "Volksblatt" on successfully until old age forced him to retire and hand over the "Volksblatt" to his son-in-law.

In 1843 Columbus was still very small and the German population not very numerous nor very well off; the German business men could be counted on one hand; in addition, the Whigs were in the overwhelming majority in city and county. Consequently, the founding of a democratic, German newspaper was no light undertaking.

An iron constitution, firm determination, strictest economy in spending, and indefatigable tenacity were all necessary. It took a couple of years to overcome the biggest obstacles. But then the paper took an upswing which was hardly foreseen. Its circle of readers was no longer restricted just to Ohio but spread to the neighboring states. Its influence grew ever more important and in many regions of the states the "Westbote" was jokingly called the "Democratic Bible". I hope one will not blame me for boasting if I say that this rapid growth can in large part be explained by the fact that the "Westbote" knew how to strike the right tone in that it talked to its readers in a simple, clear style without, however, using the vulgar idiom and always took pains to present the most complicated questions in a concise and easily understood manner. This made it a paper beloved by the people, a welcome guest in the houses and cottages of the country folk who didn't have time, while reading a newspaper, to look up words in a foreign dictionary or rack their brains to dig out the meaning of some obscure composition. The "Westbote" followed the rule which Göethe's Faust recommended to his assistant, Wagner:

"Scorn such success! Play thou an honest game!
Be no mere empty tinkling fool!
True sense and reason reach their aim
With little help from art or rule.
Be earnest! Then what need to seek
The words that best your meaning speak?
Oh, your orations, garnished, trimmed, refined,
Tickling men's fancies where they're chiefly weak,
Are unrefreshing as the drizzling wind,
That through the autumn's sere leaves whistles bleak."

In May 1884 the paper was transferred from the old publishers, who had been loyal to each other for more than forty years and still share joy and sorrow as partners, to the "Westbote Co." which still continues to carry on in the old spirit. My 44 year occupation as newspaper editor can be summed up in these words: uninterrupted toil and trouble, countless polemics (or "paper-wars"), the most bitter in the 50's during the fight between the "Greens" and the "Grays", many aggravations which only once were actually concerned with the newspaper business, and even then humor was not allowed to fail. Undoubtedly, mistakes were not ruled out for "man errs as long as he lives." I dare hope, however, in spite of this, that many good seeds were sown by the "Westbote", especially in the interests of the awakening German youth, falling on fertile ground, and that many, perhaps, will have a friendly memory of me when I'm no longer here. F. F.

In her 1974 translation, Mildred provided this helpful note: The "Grays" and the Greens" were two factions, political & otherwise, of the German immigrants of the 1830's, 40's, & 50's. Most of the "Grays" adhered to the Democratic Party, the "Greens" to the Republican.

Father and Mother's signature as they signed an
Official document on Feby. 22nd, 1848.

L. F. Fieser.

Dec 17-1913

Frederick Fieser

L. S.

Louise Fieser

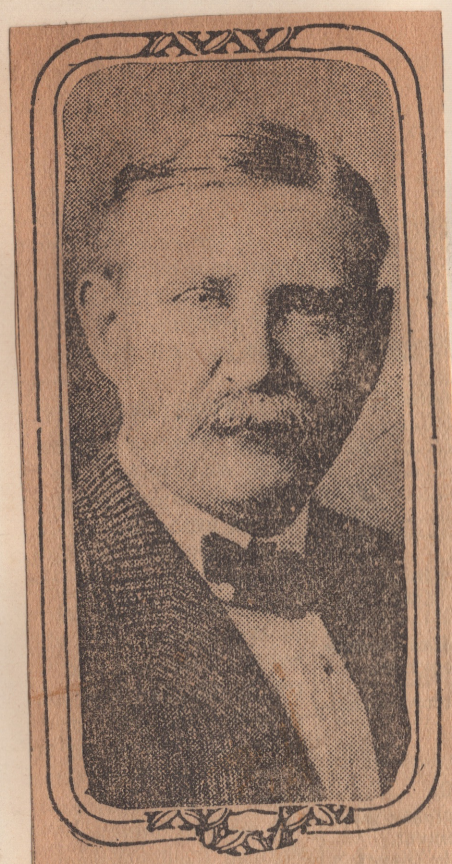
L. S.

Glückauf! Dein treuer Vater

F. Fieser.

Fathers signature in a letter to me of April 1-1891

L. F. Fieser.



LOUIS F. FIESER,

Lifelong resident of Columbus and prominent in business circles, who died Saturday at his home, 31 Hamilton avenue, at the age of 62, after but four days' illness. He was buried Monday afternoon. He was one of the first students to register at Ohio State university.

Columbus Evening Dispatch March 5, 1917.

Louis F. Fieser, Lifelong Resident of Columbus, Succumbs to Four Days' Illness.

Funeral services were held at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon at the family residence, 31 Hamilton avenue, for Louis Frederick Fieser, aged 62, who died at his home Saturday afternoon at 3:30, following an illness of only four days' duration. Rev. H. H. D. Sterrett of St. Paul's Episcopal church officiated and burial was at Green Lawn. Mr. Fieser was a lifelong resident of Columbus and a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Fieser. His father founded the Westbote, German newspaper.

He attended the Columbus public schools and was one of the first students registered at Ohio State university, and then received his degree after three years' study in a polytechnic school in Vienna, Austria. Returning to this country in 1891 he practiced the civil engineering profession for 12 years, after which he became a member of the firm of Reinhard & Co., bankers. Since then he had been interested in various business enterprises in Columbus, including William R. Edmister & Co.; O. T. Snyder & Co., and the Dollar Building & Loan Co., of which he was assistant secretary.

He was a member of the Columbus club and the Columbus Country club. Surviving are his wife, two daughters, Misses Dorothy and Martha Fieser; a son, Louis Frederick, jr., and a sister, Mrs. George C. Krauss, of the Cumberland apartments.

FIESER—Louis Frederick, aged 62 years at the residence, 31 Hamilton avenue, Saturday afternoon, March 3. Funeral services at the residence Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Burial private. 4-5

Ohio State Journal

Todes-Anzeige.

Freunden und Bekannten hiermit die Trauernachricht, daß am Samstag Nachmittag, den 3. März 1917, unser theuerer Gatte und Vater, Herr

Louis Friedrich Fieser,

in seiner Wohnung, No. 31 Hamilton Avenue, im Alter von 62 Jahren gestorben ist. Die Beerdigung findet am Montag, den 5. März 1917, Nachmittags um 2 Uhr, von dem Trauerhaus aus auf dem Greenlawn Friedhof statt. Die Beisetzung ist privat.

Um stilles Beileid bitten,

Die trauernden Hinterbliebenen.

Express. Westbote

Obituary

—

Mourning message to friends and acquaintances, that on Saturday afternoon, the 3rd of March 1917, our dear husband and father, Mr.

Louis Friedrich Fieser,

died at his home, No. 31 Hamilton Avenue, at the age of 62. The funeral takes place at 2 o'clock on Monday, the 5th of March 1917 from the house of mourning to Greenlawn Cemetery. The burial is private.

Asking for condolences in silence,

The bereaved.

It seems that early 20th century obituaries were sometimes addressed to the reader and signed by the bereaved. In this case, the family may have been requesting privacy or minimal contact from friends wishing to offer sympathy. The literal translation for the next to last line is “Asking for silent condolences” (Google Translate).

ONE OF EARLIEST OHIO STATE STUDENTS DEAD

Louis F. Fieser, 62, Enrolled Here from 1873 to 1876, Succumbs at Home Saturday.

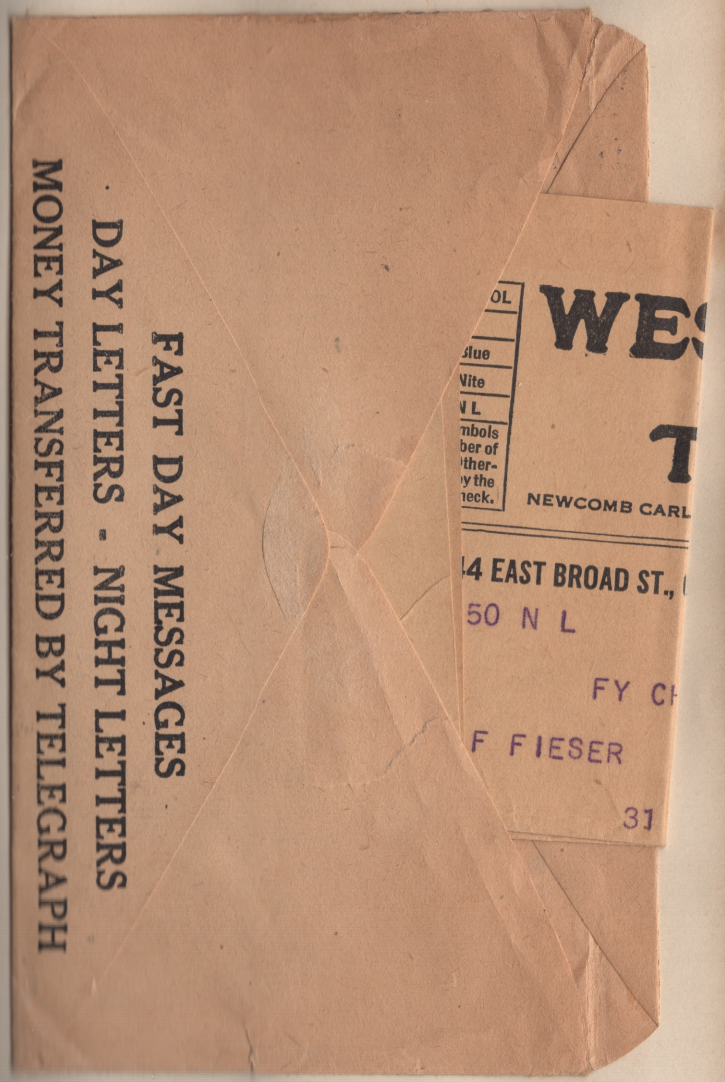
BURIAL SERVICES YESTERDAY

Funeral services for Louis F. Fieser, aged 62, one of the first students to register at The Ohio State University, were held at his home, 31 Hamilton Avenue, yesterday at 2 p. m., in charge of Rev. H. H. Sterrett, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Mr. Fieser died Saturday at 3:30 p. m., after a four days' illness.

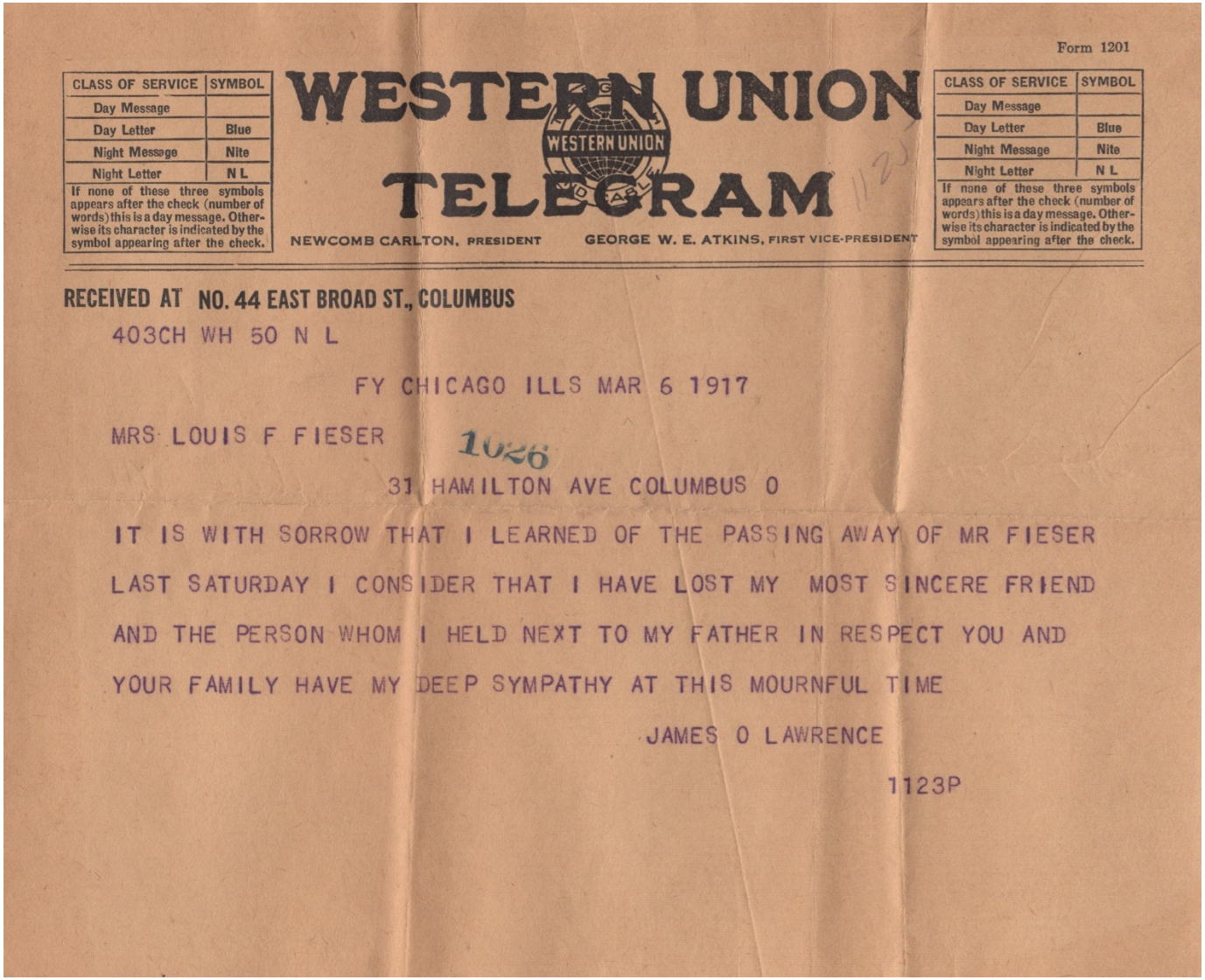
Mr. Fieser attended the University from 1873 to 1876, after which he went to Vienna to study civil engineering. He followed this profession 12 years, after which he became a member of the banking firm of Reinhard & Co. Since then he has made his home in Columbus, being interested in various business activities here.

Burial was made in Green Lawn Cemetery.

Ohio State University Lantern - March 6, 1917



Telegram offering condolences to Martha Victoria Kershaw Fieser following the death of her husband Louis Friedrich Fieser on March 3, 1917. The telegram is in an envelope pasted onto a page in the diary.



Form 1201

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

RECEIVED AT NO. 44 EAST BROAD ST., COLUMBUS

403CH WH 50 N L

FY CHICAGO ILLS MAR 6 1917

MRS LOUIS F FIESER 1026

31 HAMILTON AVE COLUMBUS O

IT IS WITH SORROW THAT I LEARNED OF THE PASSING AWAY OF MR FIESER LAST SATURDAY I CONSIDER THAT I HAVE LOST MY MOST SINCERE FRIEND AND THE PERSON WHOM I HELD NEXT TO MY FATHER IN RESPECT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY HAVE MY DEEP SYMPATHY AT THIS MOURNFUL TIME

JAMES O LAWRENCE

1123P

Following the telegram, letters of condolence to Martha Victoria Fieser are attached to the next two pages.

New Orleans, March 7 th 1917.

My dear Mrs. Fieser.

We have just received our home paper and have seen that my poor old friend has died. I wish that it were possible for me to tel you how much I feel his loss. I have known Louis since we were boys of about ten years of age. Much of that time our acquaintance has been most intimate but still we have neve r had an angry word and I have always felt that that was good luck for him was good for me, too. Just because we were such good friends. He was so unselfish that no one could know him and not, at least, like him and nearly all of us loved him. No one could speak an ill word of him and no one wanted to. I have lost my oldest friend.

But how am I to sympathise with you? How-ever much he was to me, he was more to you. I can not reconcile my-self, much less can I hope to lighten your burden. Let us think that there is to be a meeting in another like and that we have that to look forward to and try to get some happiness in that thought.

Most sincerely your friend,

Ira H. Willson.

One of Louis boyhood friends.

as coming from one who through all these years has been near him. For indeed he was a true gentleman & a steadfast friend -

Yours Your old friend

Mc.

Address
J. F. McFadden Sr
Gazette
Steubenville O.

Letter from John Mc. Fadden, who went to Ohio State University with Louis and the references in the letter are to that time

The Steubenville Gazette

(Daily and Weekly.)

A Democratic Newspaper, Advocating Jeffersonian Principles.

The Steubenville Gazette Co.,
H. H. McFADDEN, President.

STEUBENVILLE, OHIO, March 6th 1917

Dear Jake:

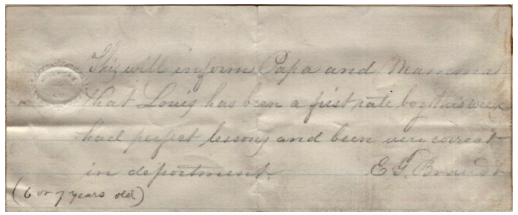
Not until this morning did I receive news that our old time and dear friend Louis had passed away. I am so broken up over the news that I am almost too nervous to write you. Had I known it in time nothing could have prevented my coming to the funeral. I will never forget the reunion of the old timers engineered by Louis and yourself a few years ago. I enjoyed every minute I was in Columbus and have been looking forward to the time when we might have another such session. But they will never be just the same without Louis.

Isn't it strange that though all the five years I was at the O. S. U. - the only part of it that I think about at all, was the old dorm and the 1492 boys. For the fact of being in the first class that graduated or for any individual members of it (Patty of course excepted). I care nothing at all - But the mere thought of the old boys warms my heart at once -

Can you give me some details of his sickness or send me a paper containing his obituary -

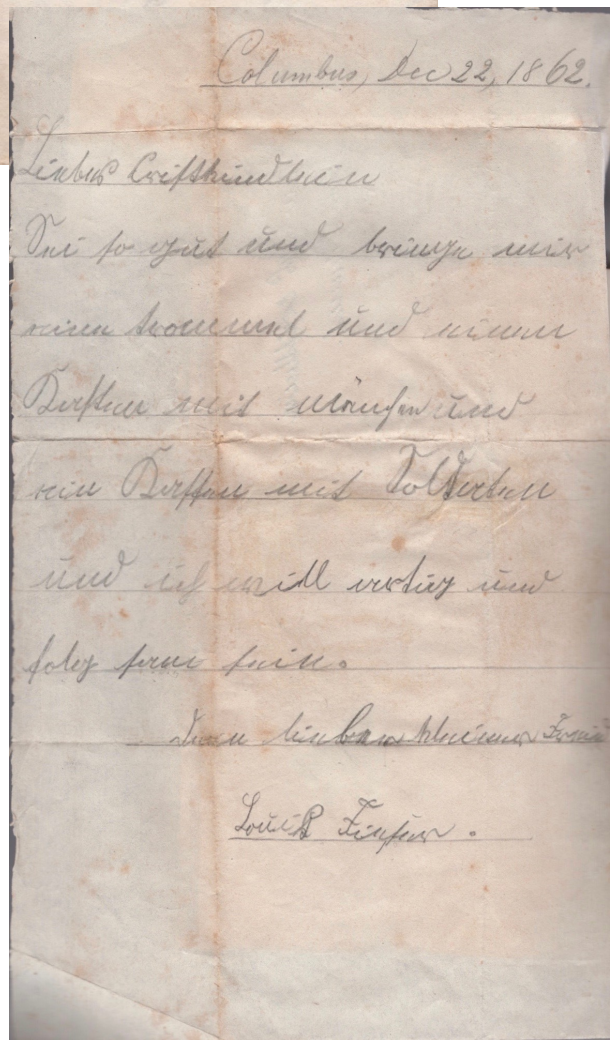
I wish Jake you would extend to his wife and family my deepest sympathy for the loss of husband and father

Souvenirs from Louis Fieser's childhood are pasted onto the next two pages of the diary.



This will inform Papa and Mama (Mamen__?) that Louis has been a first rate boy this week, had perfect lessons and been very correct in deportment. E.G. Brandt

To the Christ Child in heaven.



Columbus, Dec . 22, 1862.

Dearest Christ Child!

Be so kind and bring

me a drum and a box

with little men and a

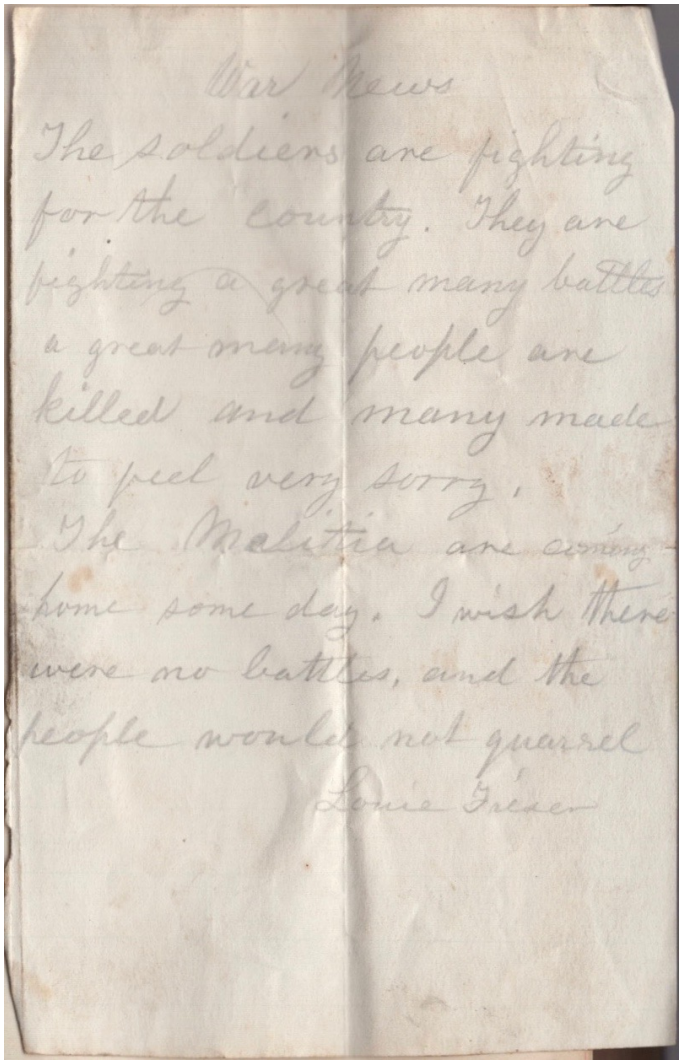
box with soldiers.

I promise to be

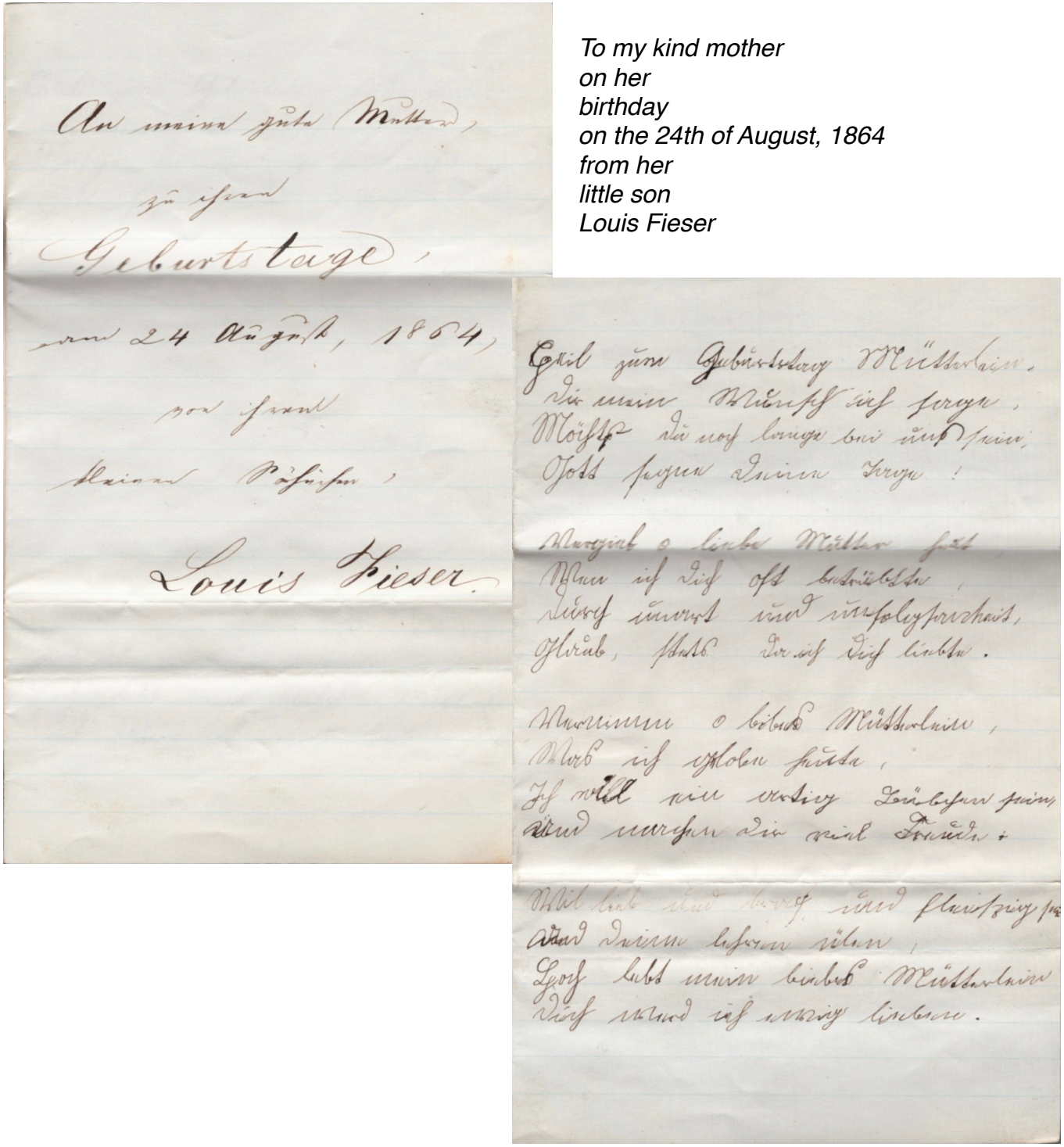
good and obedient.

Your dear little friend

Louis Fieser.



War News (above) probably concerns the Civil War. Louis would have been 6 1/2 years old when the Civil War began and 10 1/2 when it ended. Louis's cousin, Gustavus Selbach, served in the 9th Ohio Infantry, a unit made up almost entirely of German immigrants.


An meine gute Mutter,
zu ihrem
Geburtstage,
am 24 August, 1864,
von ihrem
kleinen Söhnchen,
Louis Fieser.

Heil zum Geburtstage Mütterlein,
Die mein Wunsch sich sorgen,
Möchte du noch lange bei uns sein,
Gott segne deine Tage!

Vergieb o liebe Mutter das
Wenn ich dich oft betrübte,
Dass unwahr und ungehorsam bin,
Glaub, dass ich dich liebte.

Warum o liebe Mütterlein,
Werd ich gelobt heute,
Ich will ein artig Söhnchen sein,
Und machen dir viel Freude.

Will lieb und brav und fleißig sein
Und deinen Lehren hören,
Noch lebt mein liebes Mütterlein
Dich werd ich ewig ehren.

To my kind mother
on her
birthday
on the 24th of August, 1864
from her
little son
Louis Fieser

On your birthday, mother dear,
I am asking for your wish
Hope you can be with us for a long time
and God bless you many more days.

Forgive me, oh my dear mother
if I sometimes sadden you
by being naughty or disobedient
Believe me I always love you.

Why, oh dear mother
was I praised today.
I want to be a good boy
and give you a lot of joy.

I want to be kind and good and diligent
and listen to your teachings,
My mother dear is still alive
I shall always love you.

Louis Frederick Fieser, one of the first students to register at Ohio State University, died Saturday, March 3rd, at his home, 31 Hamilton Ave., Columbus, after an illness of four days. Mr. Fieser was 62 years old. He leaves a widow (Miss Kershaw), two daughters, Dorothy and Martha, the latter a student at the University, and one son, Louis Frederick, Jr.

Mr. Fieser attended Ohio State from '73 to '76, afterwards going to Vienna to study civil engineering. He followed this profession for twelve years, when he became a member of the firm of Reinhard & Co., bankers. More recently he has been in the iron business.

Mr. Fieser was always an enthusiastic Ohio State man, and loyally kept up his college connections and friends until his death. He was a member of the Ohio State Association.

From Ohio State Monthly

L. F. Fieser

Jany 23/1914

L. F. Fieser

Last signature—
February 28, 1917.

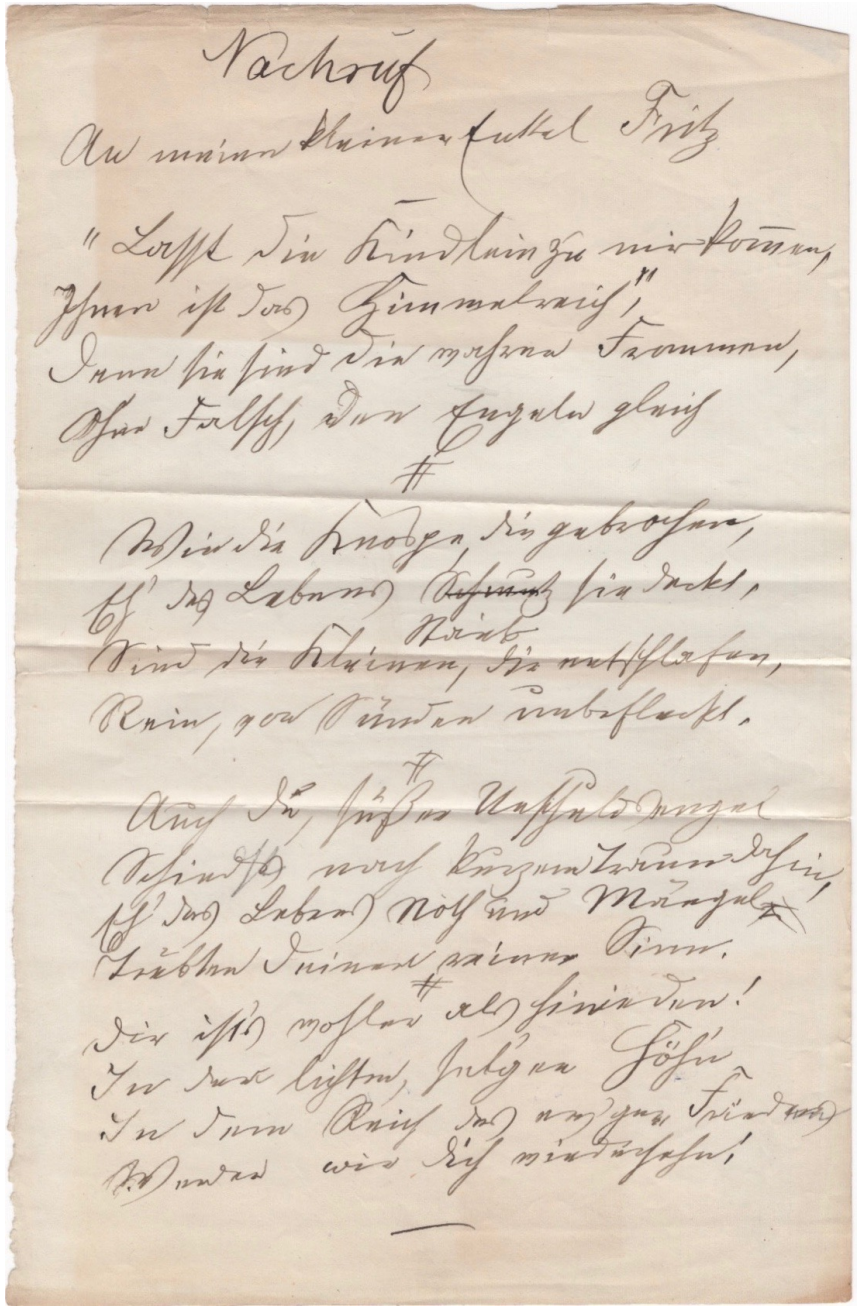
HOLD MEMORIAL SERVICE.

Twenty-One Members Have Died Since First Meeting of Columbus Rotarians. 1923

A simple but impressive memorial service for those members of the Columbus Rotary club who have died since the first meeting, on Jan. 6, 1912, was held at the weekly luncheon Tuesday at the Deshler. Twenty charter members were present. The list of the dead was read by Dr. W. O. Thompson, president of Ohio State university, and honorary Rotarian. Dr. Thompson and Rev. B. F. Brundage eulogized the departed, a list of whose names follows:

H. E. Bown, L. F. Fieser, John Boyer, George F. Burba, Charles H. Brown, Frank Alspach, William Bucher, Harvey Bucher, Henry Weissenbach, Irving Pleukarp, George C. Boswell, Al G. Field, J. Edward Orr C. O. Frankenberg, Orrie W. Cook, Clarence E. Edwards, Edgar K. Black, C. Malcolm Kinnard, Paul G. Spence, Joseph H. Devere and Robert D. Palmer.

Tucked into the journal, but not attached, are family mementoes photographed on the following pages, including an “Obituary” written by Friedrich Fieser for his grandson Friedrich Fieser Krauss, or “Fritz,” who died at the age of 7 months and 6 days on April 29, 1888.



Obituary
To my little grandson Fritz

—

“Let the dear children come to me
For theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.”
They are the true devout,
Without wrong, and like angels.

#

Like young blossoms,
Untouched by the dust of life,
Are the little ones,
Pure, unspoiled and without sin.

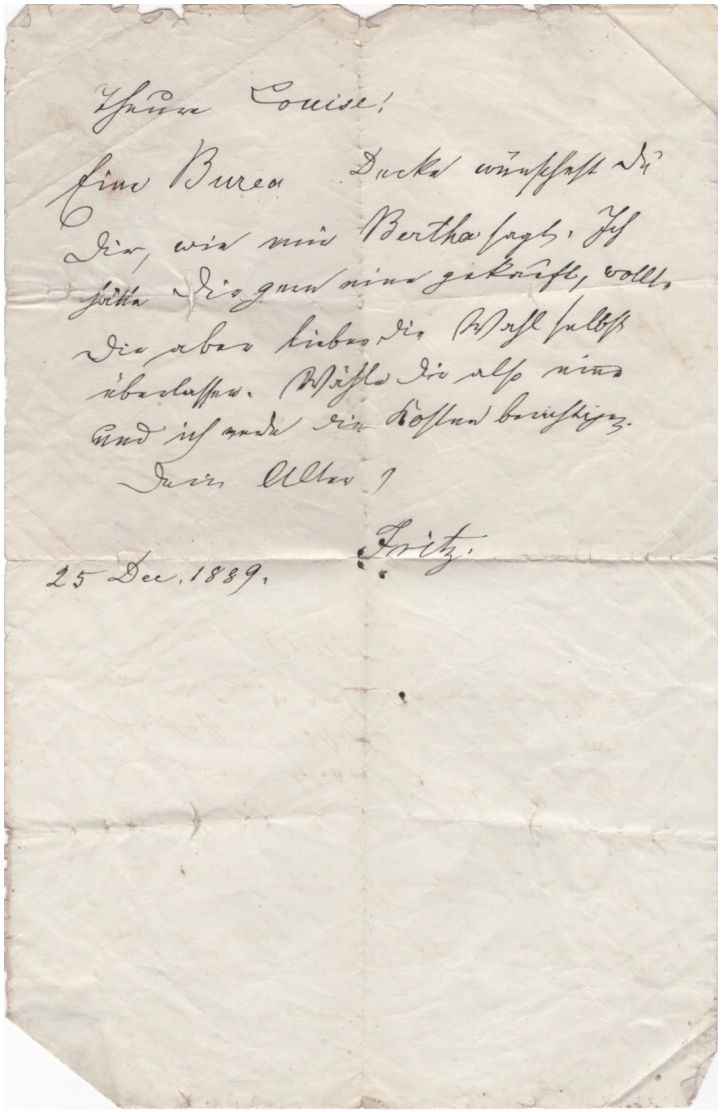
#

Come you sweet innocent angel,
Depart from the short dream.
It is life's wants and needs
That trouble your dear consciousness.

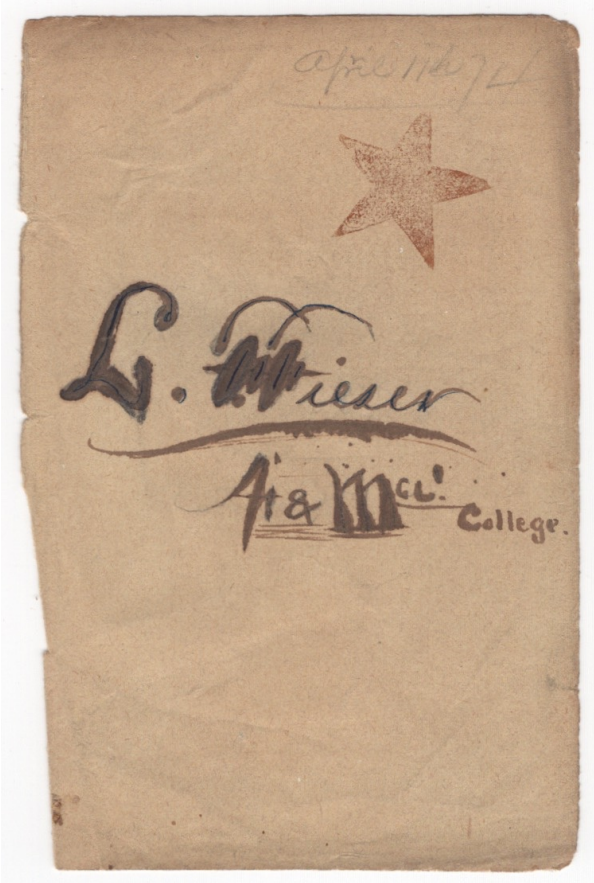
#

You are better off than most,
In the light and high sky,
In the realm of eternal peace,
We shall meet you again.

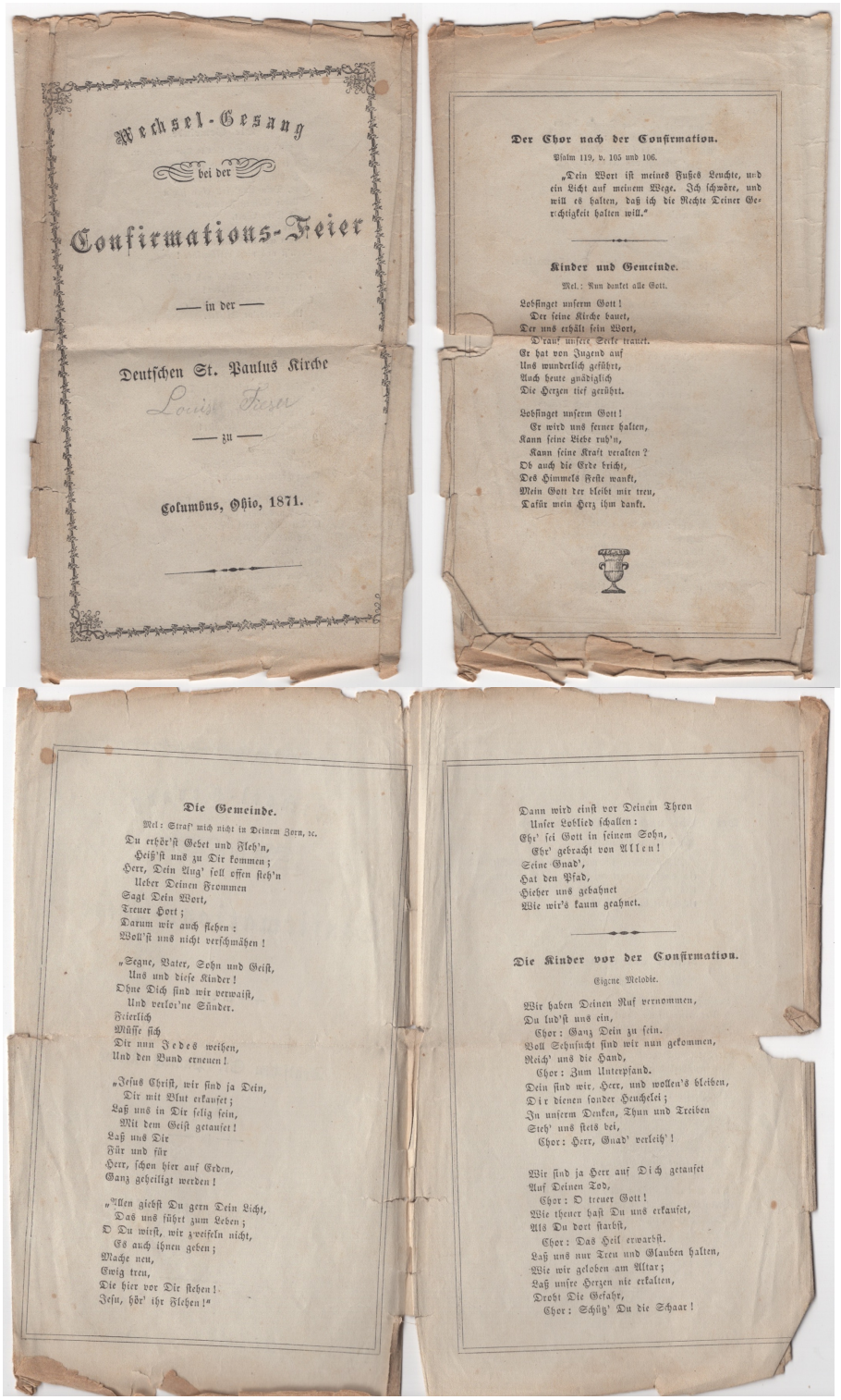
—



Dearest Louise!
Bertha tells me, you are wishing for a Burea blanket. I would have loved to buy you one, however, wanted to give you the chance to select one yourself. Go ahead and choose one, and I will bear the costs.
Your old
Fritz
25 Dec. 1889.



(Right)
Louis Fieser was a student in the first class to attend Ohio State University, originally named Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College. This paper could be the flyleaf of a small book or a page torn from a notebook. April 11, ’74 is written in pencil in the upper right corner; Louis was 19 years old at the time.



Wechsel-Gesang

bei der

Confirmations-Feier

— in der —

Deutschen St. Paulus Kirche

Louise Fieser

— zu —

Columbus, Ohio, 1871.

Der Chor nach der Confirmation.

Psalm 119, v. 105 und 106.

„Dein Wort ist meines Fußes Leuchte, und ein Licht auf meinem Wege. Ich schwöre, und will es halten, daß ich die Rechte Deiner Gerechtigkeit halten will."

Kinder und Gemeinde.

Mel.: Nun danket alle Gott.

Lobsinget unserm Gott!
Der seine Kirche baut,
Der uns erhält sein Wort,
D'rauf unsere Seele traut.
Er hat von Jugend auf
Uns wunderlich geführt,
Auch heute gnädiglich
Die Herzen tief gerührt.

Lobsinget unserm Gott!
Er wird uns ferner halten,
Kann seine Liebe ruh'n,
Kann seine Kraft veralten?
Ob auch die Erde bricht,
Des Himmels Feste wankt,
Mein Gott der bleibt mir treu,
Dafür mein Herz ihm dankt.

Die Gemeinde.

Mel: Straf' mich nicht in Deinem Zorn, &c.

Du erhör'st Gebet und Fleh'n,
Heiß'st uns zu Dir kommen;
Herr, Dein Aug' soll offen steh'n
Ueber Deinen Frommen
Sagt Dein Wort,
Treuer Hort;
Darum wir auch flehen:
Woll'st uns nicht verschmähen!

„Segne, Vater, Sohn und Geist,
Uns und diese Kinder!
Ohne Dich sind wir verwaist,
Und verlor'ne Sünder.
Feierlich
Müsse sich
Dir nun Jedes weihen,
Und den Bund erneuen!

„Jesus Christ, wir sind ja Dein,
Dir mit Blut erkaufet;
Laß uns in Dir selig sein,
Mit dem Geist getaufet!
Laß uns Die
Für und für
Herr, schon hier auf Erden,
Ganz geheiligt werden!

„Allen giebst Du gern Dein Licht,
Das uns führt zum Leben;
O Du wirst, wir zweifeln nicht,
Es auch ihnen geben;
Mache neu,
Ewig treu,
Die hier vor Dir stehen!
Jesu, hör' ihr Flehen!"

Dann wird einst vor Deinem Thron
Unser Loblied schallen:
Ehr' sei Gott in seinem Sohn,
Ehr' gebracht von Allen!
Seine Gnad',
Hat den Pfad,
Hieher uns gebahnet
Wie wir's kaum geahnet.

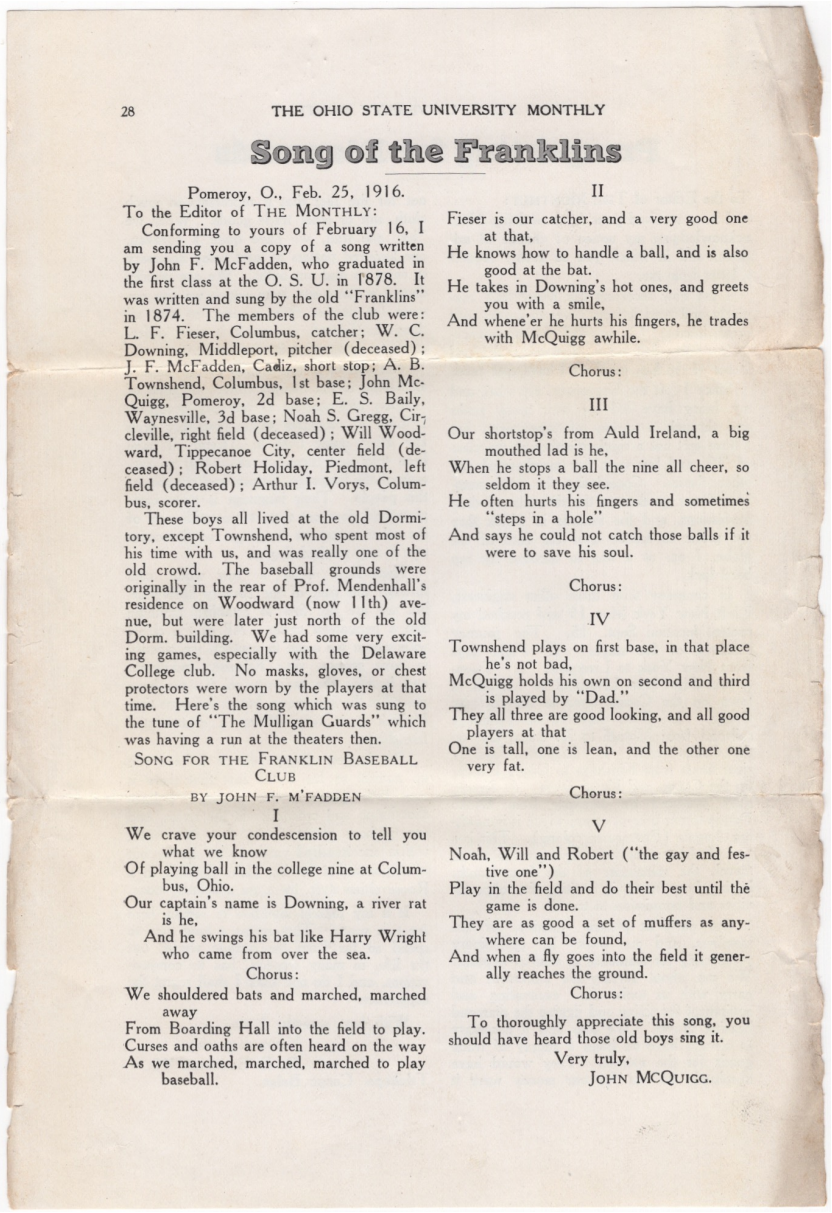
Die Kinder vor der Confirmation.

Eigene Melodie.

Wir haben Deinen Ruf vernommen,
Du lud'st uns ein,
Chor: Ganz Dein zu sein.
Voll Sehnsucht sind wir nun gekommen,
Reich' uns die Hand,
Chor: Zum Unterpfand.
Dein sind wir, Herr, und wollen's bleiben,
Dir dienen sonder Heuchelei;
In unserm Denken, Thun und Treiben
Steh' uns stets bei,
Chor: Herr, Gnad' verleih'!

Wir sind ja Herr auf Dich getaufet
Auf Deinen Tod,
Chor: O treuer Gott!
Wie theuer hast Du uns erkaufet,
Als Du dort starbst,
Chor: Das Heil erwarbst.
Laß uns nur Treu und Glauben halten,
Wie wir gelobten am Altar;
Laß unsre Herzen nie erkalten,
Droht Die Gefahr,
Chor: Schütz' Du die Schaar!

(Left) Program for Louis Friedrich Fieser's confirmation, St. Paul's German Church, Columbus, Ohio, 1871.



28 THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY MONTHLY

Song of the Franklins

Pomeroy, O., Feb. 25, 1916.

To the Editor of THE MONTHLY:

Conforming to yours of February 16, I am sending you a copy of a song written by John F. McFadden, who graduated in the first class at the O. S. U. in 1878. It was written and sung by the old "Franklins" in 1874. The members of the club were: L. F. Fieser, Columbus, catcher; W. C. Downing, Middleport, pitcher (deceased); J. F. McFadden, Cadiz, short stop; A. B. Townshend, Columbus, 1st base; John McQuigg, Pomeroy, 2d base; E. S. Baily, Waynesville, 3d base; Noah S. Gregg, Circleville, right field (deceased); Will Woodward, Tippecanoe City, center field (deceased); Robert Holiday, Piedmont, left field (deceased); Arthur I. Vorys, Columbus, scorer.

These boys all lived at the old Dormitory, except Townshend, who spent most of his time with us, and was really one of the old crowd. The baseball grounds were originally in the rear of Prof. Mendenhall's residence on Woodward (now 11th) avenue, but were later just north of the old Dorm. building. We had some very exciting games, especially with the Delaware College club. No masks, gloves, or chest protectors were worn by the players at that time. Here's the song which was sung to the tune of "The Mulligan Guards" which was having a run at the theaters then.

SONG FOR THE FRANKLIN BASEBALL CLUB

BY JOHN F. M'FADDEN

I

We crave your condescension to tell you what we know
Of playing ball in the college nine at Columbus, Ohio.
Our captain's name is Downing, a river rat is he,
And he swings his bat like Harry Wright who came from over the sea.

Chorus:

We shouldered bats and marched, marched away
From Boarding Hall into the field to play.
Curses and oaths are often heard on the way
As we marched, marched, marched to play baseball.

II

Fieser is our catcher, and a very good one at that,
He knows how to handle a ball, and is also good at the bat.
He takes in Downing's hot ones, and greets you with a smile,
And whene'er he hurts his fingers, he trades with McQuigg awhile.

Chorus:

III

Our shortstop's from Auld Ireland, a big mouthed lad is he,
When he stops a ball the nine all cheer, so seldom it they see.
He often hurts his fingers and sometimes "steps in a hole"
And says he could not catch those balls if it were to save his soul.

Chorus:

IV

Townshend plays on first base, in that place he's not bad,
McQuigg holds his own on second and third is played by "Dad."
They all three are good looking, and all good players at that
One is tall, one is lean, and the other one very fat.

Chorus:

V

Noah, Will and Robert ("the gay and festive one")
Play in the field and do their best until the game is done.
They are as good a set of muffers as anywhere can be found,
And when a fly goes into the field it generally reaches the ground.

Chorus:

To thoroughly appreciate this song, you should have heard those old boys sing it.

Very truly,

JOHN MCQUIGG.

(Above) An article about Ohio State University's student baseball club; Louis Fieser is the subject of the second verse of a song written by one of the teammates. Louis played catcher without any protective gear!